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Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Infrastructure Committee Issues Minutes

LD1906193991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 19 Jun (JANA)—The signing of the minutes of the fourth session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Infrastructure Committee took place in Tripoli yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

The minutes cover the drawing up of a plan in the field of reconstruction and the preservation of architectural heritage and the devising of a method for the pooling of the common expertise gained in the field of the refurbishing and maintenance of the cultural heritage; the exchange of expertise and know-how and participation in the scientific functions and the specialized periodic exhibitions held in the AMU member countries.

The minutes also cover a draft law for traffic, protection from road accidents, the development of railway communications, and the production of railways.

In the field of air transport and civil aviation and airports, the minutes covered the laying of the basis of the policy of the AMU air transport and cooperation and integration among the air transport companies as a step toward the creation of an AMU company for air transport in addition to integration in numerous other sectors such as meteorology, marine transport, posts and telecommunications.

The AMU Ministerial Committee for Infrastructure concluded the meetings of its fourth session here yesterday evening.

Nammar Ends Term as ACC Secretary General

NC1506193591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1623 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], returned to Cairo from Amman today following the end of his two-year term there as ACC secretary general.

Upon his return, Dr. Nammar said that he cannot return to his post in Amman for another term unless the ACC Supreme Council, which is composed of the leaders of the four states, [Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen] renews it for another two years.

Dr. Nammar said the agreement establishing the ACC stipulates that the secretary general is appointed by the Supreme Council for a renewable two-year period.

Dr. Nammar said ACC Assistant Secretary General Hisham Husayn Tawfiq, an Iraqi, has take over the post until the Supreme Council meets and elects a secretary general.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO 'Surprised' by Lebanese Deployment Date

NC1906141491 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Tunis, June 19 (AFP)—PLO leaders want to contact Lebanese authorities before July 1, the date Lebanese troops are scheduled to be deployed in southern Lebanon, to discuss the scope of government authority in the region, informed Palestinian sources said here.

Officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who met in Tunis on Tuesday with Lebanese mediator Muhsin Ibrahim, were surprised by Lebanon's decision to deploy the troops beginning July 1 but will not oppose the measure, the sources added.

With the deployment of the army in the south, the PLO stands to lose its final stronghold in an area where nearly 10,000 fighters are stationed.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat travelled to Algiers Sunday to ask President Chadli Bendjedid to intervene with Lebanon on behalf of the Palestinians.

Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia formed a triumvirate that helped draft an overall peace accord for Lebanon in 1989.

The first contact between the PLO and Lebanon took place in mid-May at an Arab League meeting in Cairo, when the head of the PLO political department, Faruq Qaddumi, met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. There were no subsequent meetings.

Delegates of Fatah, the main faction within the PLO, will discuss the Palestinian-Lebanese relationship with Syrian officials during a visit next week to Damascus.

The delegation will include Fatah Central Committee members Hani al-Hasan and 'Abbas Zaki and will discuss common PLO and Syrian interests in Lebanon, particularly the south.

Besides the military issues, the PLO wants to reach an agreement with Lebanon on political and social problems such as the reopening of a PLO office in Beirut and the social rights of the 350,000 Palestinians settled in Lebnanon.

PLO's Franji Advocates Talks With Israel

AU1906125191 Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 17 Jun 91 p 5

[Interview with Abdallah Franji, PLO representative to Bonn, by Brent Hentschel in Bremen; date not given: "We Want To Talk With the Israelis"]

[Text] [Hentschel] Is it true that you do not see any readiness for talks on the part of Israel?

[Franji] I think that the Israelis must one day have the courage to negotiate with their enemies. The alternative would be to shoot at each other. However, we want to talk with each other.

[Hentschel] Which Palestinian representative do you think would somehow be "acceptable" for Israel if talks should take place?

[Franji] We cannot shape the future of the Palestinians according to Israel's wishes.

[Hentschel] That is true. However, I thought of Faysal al-Husayni, who met with U.S. Secretary of State Baker on behalf of the PLO.

[Franji] Yes, we asked him to talk with Baker. Baker is more important than Shamir in this case. If a peace conference should come about, we will talk about representatives.

[Hentschel] How do you see the influence of the Hamas fundamentalists who have been strengthened by the recent confrontation?

[Franji] We are holding talks with the Hamas and want to include them in the National Council. Within the PLO they have better opportunities to shape the future. I believe that the next National Council meeting in November will also be attended by the Hamas.

[Hentschel] What about the chances of the groups in Syria to be readmitted?

[Franji] Our delegation that was in Damascus recently held talks with all groups, except with the dissidents Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. All of them promised to attend the meeting. There should be a place for every Palestinian group within the PLO.

[Hentschel] If a conference should be convened, one would probably have to offer Israel a few things. Would the PLO be willing to give Jerusalem to the Israelis in the interest of peace?

[Franji] Jerusalem is part of a bigger problem. One cannot treat it as a separate issue. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians live there—Arabs with their own history and culture. They are not Jews and must shape their own future. One cannot tell them to become Israelis overnight.

[Hentschel] What role could Jews—Israeli settlers in the occupied territories, for example—play in a future Palestinian state?

[Franji] Many Palestinians also live in Israel. Two states in peace must hold talks on the problems of both minorities and find a common denominator. If the Israelis establish new settlements, the Palestinians must also be granted the right to live in Israel.

[Hentschel] President 'Arafat stated that Jewish ministers might be included in a future Palestinian government....

[Franji] Basically, we supported a better solution: Israel and Palestine should establish a common state with a good mixture of Palestinians and Israelis. However, this proposal, which dates back to 1945, is hardly realizable at this point. We have Jewish friends within the PLO who have struggled on our side for many years. 'Arafat wanted to say that we are not against the Jews. However, I do not believe that Israelis can become ministers in a future Palestinian state.

[Hentschel] Mr. Franji, you have stated that you want to advocate the Kurds' right to self-determination.

[Franji] I support efforts to bring about a solution to the Iraqi-Kurdish problem. However, there are over 20 million Kurds in three states. If we solve the problem only in Iraq, we have not really solved it. If we do not achieve a solution in Iran, where thousands of Kurds were killed in a war eight years ago, and in Turkey, there will only be a half-hearted solution.

Algeria

Frenchman, Italian Arrested in Bechar Province

LD1706200491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jun 91

[Text] Within the framework of the state of siege declared since 6 June, the security authorities in Bechar Province have arrested two foreigners. The first is called Ennardo Franco, nicknamed 'Abdullah, of Italian nationality, for violating currency regulations and collecting donations without a permit. The accused entered national territory on 14 May. He was referred to court on 16 June.

On the same date the security authorities in Bechar Province brought to justice the so-called [first name indistinct] Jean Pierre, of French nationality, for illegal residence and vagrancy. The accused has resided in the national territory since 20 December 1990, the date of his entry into Algeria.

French Arms Smuggler Under 'Preventive Detention'

LD1906135891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The court of Bordj Bou Naama has decided to put Didier Roger Guillaume and six other people suspected of being his accomplices under preventive detention. A statement released by the Judicial Council of the province of Tiaret, and handed to APS, indicated that Didier Roger Guillaume, a French citizen who was apprehended on 12 June in Bordj Bou Naama in possession of prohibited weapons, which were smuggled into Algeria, has been put, along with six other people, under preventive detention. The public prosecutor of the Judicial Council of the province of Tiaret declared that this affair is serious because it affects the security of the state, and that the trial will be held in total clarity and objectivity and on the basis of autonomy which governs the judicial institution.

Number of Arrests for Week Reaches 469

LD1906144191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The services in charge of maintaining order reported 469 arrests for this week alone. So far, 244 people have been handed over to the authorities, and 107 put under a warrant of confinement with the following charges: incitement to jihad, threats and insults, and damage of public property.

Military Meets Press on State of Siege

LD1806231191 Algiers APS in English 1021 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] Algiers, June 18 (APS)—"Military authorities do not plan to disseize civil authorities of their prerogatives." This is what [was] asserted on Monday [by] representatives of military authorities in charge of managing the state of siege in an interview with public sector journalists at the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence.

Once tackling that state of siege and actions undertaken by police and military police services, the representative of military authorities noted that they do not fall within the scope of derogatory provisions stemming from the decree on state of siege instoration but within the framework of conditions stipulated at penal procedures code. [sentence as received]

In this regard, he pointed out that the measures taken since the instoration [as received] of the state of siege were merely public order measures apart from the curfew or the prohibition of mobs in public squares

The civil authorities are not disseized of their attributions, adding that the military authority in charge of managing the state of siege was precisely defined, that is the general command, the six military zones and land forces command.

The representative of the military command noted that the judiciary authority exercises freely and fully its prerogatives, adding that since there is an opening of judiciary request, the military authority has nothing to do.

The military authority, he said, has up till now only given information of general order and avoided to answer with precision on actions under way because "it did not want to occupy the national scene, which could lead to political interpretations".

He added that the aim of the meeting was to enable to provide channels that will enable to organize relations with the press.

The representatives of the press insisted on the difficulties they meet in carrying out their jobs. The representatives of the military authority, who explained that the requirements of secrecy of enquiries carried out obliged them to keep silence on some questions and enabled them to answer the concerns of journalists and the expectations of the opinion in the forthcoming days after consultation of directors of enquiries. [sentence as received]

"Our first concern is to protect the democratic process, to lead the country to free and democratic elections with the least possible coercions, contrarieties and perturbations," he said, pointing out that the military authority does not exert any pressure on the press organs and does not wish to do it.

To a question to know if it might not be any antagonism between the military authority and the government, once constituted, the representatives of the military authority answered that their work will be rather facilitate since the decree on the establishment of the state of siege stipulates that the conditions of the exercise of powers of the military authority are fixed through the governmental way.

Asked about the French national who was arrested in Bordj Bounaama and on the existence of possible ramifications abroad, the representative of the military authority indicated that "the question was extremely sensible and that he leaves to the investigation the care to establish it".

Hamas Leader Says Army Makes Curfew Decisions

LD1906204391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] A meeting was held in Mouradia at the headquarters of the Movement of the Islamic Society, Hamas, between Cheikh Mahfoud Nahanah, the leader of the movement, and the national and international press. Details from our radio correspondent, Mourad Madaoui:

[Madaoui] A press conference given by Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah had many topics. He opened it by presenting a brief summary of the present circumstances from various viewpoints. He then answered journalists' questions.

The first question was about the recently formed government and the consultations which preceded it. He said that the government is made up of many trends and that the nonpartisan Islamic aspect, which was known in the past, is absent and is not considered important.

He then spoke about the division of electoral constituencies and recalled that he rejected the division because it was biased and was the point of conflict in the past.

He also spoke about other national issues and clarified the movement's attitude toward them, such as the Tamazight [the Berber issue], the difference between Hamas and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], the strike, and the alliance with FIS.

As for the curfew, his view is that the decision to lift the curfew rests with the military authorities, who have the right to determine when to lift it and its legitimacy or lack thereof. According to Cheikh Nahnah, the authorities had informaton about the emergence of the conflict between the FIS and the authorities.

In reply to a question concerning the strike, Cheikh Nahnah spoke of two considerations for the workers' return. First, the Islamic consideration, on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, and second, the humanitarian consideration.

About urgent matters which the government should deal with, Cheikh Nahnah said:

[Begin Nahnah recording] The government should pay attention to the integrity and purity of the ballot box. Second, the need for the government to deal with solving the pressing daily needs of citizens. Third, the government should deal with the topic of restoring faith and calm to Algerian citizens who want prosperity for their country. Fourth, the need to halt the collapse of the dinar and to restore its value. Another matter is the need to reactivate the economic system in the country so that we can eradicate unemployment. [end recording]

Ghozali Government Said To Seek Economic Revival

LD1906122791 Algiers APS in English 1046 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Algiers, 19/06/91 (APS)—After large and intensive consultations, "useful and necessary" as Sid Ahmed Ghozali put it, the new government's members was known yesterday in the night confirming thus through the choice of its members, the choice already announced of a team whose main mission is to assume a transitory period till legislative elections that ought to be "fair and clean".

Therefore, beyond transition in the control of a crisis that should necessarily end by the progressive return to serenity, adopting in that as in physics a state of successive equilibriums the head of government said, one could see through the side face of Ghozali government men a learned mixture between "politicians" and "technocrats" so as to probably meet the two urgent needs of the Algerian society: to deepen choices in the field of economic reforms and a continuation of the democratic process as already drawn and reiterated by the president of the Republic. [as received]

Indeed, no one could ignore, once tackling the economic theme, that the heaviest threats influenced and probably keep doing this process, for the recent and even serious convulsions lived by the country do remind the difficulty to build up the democratic process by accepting all rules of its functioning in a climate of transparence and the necessary resort to the free and organized vote of the people

Is it a culture and conviction matter? This is what the new government will have to debate towards all parties entering the lists against each other. The objective? To convince each other that democracy does not need to be protected.

What happened? A fact that was insufficiently and tardily stressed is that this hard protection fell within the prerogatives of the National People's Army asked to prove in facts its attachment to republican values, those that should be anchored within the Algerian society to better serve this blossoming democracy.

However, the country could not any more take pleasure in such chaotic situations, for if dialogue should prevail in sane situations the state of law has also to prevail over any other consideration and outbidding. And if the Algerian society recovered its life in the democratic foaming of ideas and remains attached to the new assets, it will certainly and attentively listen to a national consensus government in charge of delivering safely, at the request of the head of state, a process that is not obviously insuperable.

In this regard, and with [the] Ghozali Government, there are men whose responsibility is to lead this continuation, men who are known in all circles by their moral integrity and honesty, men with wide experience of dialogue and who could be with their boss the guarantors of a sane management of transition. Two personalities in particular will endeavour to reestablish confidence reports with the civil society they are [ministers] Aboubekeur Belkaid and Abdellatif Rahhal.

But if the interest of this society will tend within the forthcoming months, to the preparation of legislative elections, the government aim and this is nearly obsessive concern of Ghozali as his predecessor is economic reforms.

On this level, all incites us to think that the new government at the very time of following and improving the path of reforms, it will surely attempt to to achieve an economic revival based, as informed sources put it, upon public works and construction and industrial rehabilitation. [passage omitted]

Moroccan Envoys Received by Bendjedid

LD1906082991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The president of the Republic yesterday at the premises of the Presidency received the two special envoys of [Moroccan] King Hassan II, Minister of State Ahmed Alaoui and Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri, who handed him a message from King Hassan II.

After the audience, the Moroccan minister of state made a statement in which he said: We have come as envoys of His Majesty King Hassan II to inform His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of Morocco's affection and solidarity with Algeria and its stand alongside it. We have also come to express the firm friendship between the two peoples, the Algerian and the Moroccan.

On the occasion, the Moroccan minister of state expressed the hope that Ghozali's new government will begin its work. He considered such exchange visits as this one to be not only a contribution to the strengthening of relations between Morocco and Algeria, but also to the building of the Arab Maghreb.

Egypt

Mubarak Talks With Kuwaiti Amir Reported

NC1906151291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—The magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that President Husni Mubarak's talks with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah yesterday centered on Arab security arrangements in the Gulf. According to the magazine, the Kuwaiti side stressed its desire for Egyptian participation in an Arab security force, particularly under the difficult circumstances Kuwait continues to experience.

In its 21 June issue, the magazine cites a high-level Kuwaiti source as emphasizing that Kuwait had not asked the Egyptian troops to leave and that the security of Kuwait and of the Gulf is closely tied to the need to maintain a Gulf security force backed by an Arab security force, in which both Egypt and Syria will participate.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has affirmed that Kuwait intends to implement all provisions of the Damascus Declaration, especially those referring to the link between pan-Arab security and Arab development, to the full.

President Mubarak held important talks with the Kuwaiti amir when he visited Kuwait for a few hours yesterday.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses People's Congress 17 Jun

LD1806110491 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2106 GMT 17 Jun 91

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at General People's Congress in Surt on 17 June—live]

[Excerpts] We would like to greet the General People's Congress on concluding its session. I would like to emphasize that the people themselves are capable of... [changes thought] We must not listen to the records that doubt the capability of the masses to determine their own destiny. There is no possibility in the world today of solving the problem of democracy and the question of rule except through this method. It goes without saying that we talk about governments and their collapse. The theory of government, parliament, and party is dying now, dying every day. What is the alternative? Now they have indulged themselves deeply in party pluralism. Party pluralism has made things worse. Look at a country where the people decide their destiny by themselves, irrespective of who attends all the congresses and who does not; this is not important. It takes time. We are learning from this school. With the passage of time people will realize that their fate is decided in the congresses, and they will come to the congresses. The whole world is coming to the congresses.

Now in Algeria, President Chadli Bendjedid, despite his leadership and democratic character, and despite the fact that he is not a dictator, a bloody person, or a man of violence—in fact, we know him to be a good man who loves the people—finds himself obliged to deploy the army in the streets every year. Every year some people inevitably die because of the party power struggle. Why? Because every party intends to pave its way to power at the expense of others. A party in Algeria has announced

that a strike is inevitable so the Algerian economy will collapse and bring down the government. This party is simply sacrificing the economy of the country so it can come to power. Algeria now has 40 parties. To whom are the Algerian people casting their votes? Furthermore, how will these 40 parties agree among themselves? How would 40 parties agree in order to govern Algeria?

Yesterday I received a delegation from Niger. Niger, this underdeveloped country, the one besieged between poverty and the desert. I was told by the delegation that they have 24 parties so far, and they do not know who is ruling and how many parties can rule. Let us suppose that all 40 parties, or the 20 parties, have joined in a coalition and formed a coalition government. They will not be able to make any decision at all. The country will stand still until the day of resurrection, that is for sure. It is not possible for them to agree. If they wanted to appoint someone, every party would demand the appointee be from among its members. This is what has happened.

In Sudan, there were several parties. This was an utter failure and the army intervened and banned parties for 16 years. The army government collapsed and the parties returned to power. The country stood still once again and the army carried out a salvation revolution once again. In the end, they realized that there is no way but the people's authority, the people's congresses, and the people's committees. [passage omitted]

No people should leave themselves in the hands of a party to decide their destiny. Brothers, the present age is not one that permits any group of people, however organized, to impose itself on others. Now is the age of the masses.

You have your religion or creed, and you want to impose your religion on others. But those others have their religion, so what business is it of yours to impose your religion on others?

This is an ailment from which the communists, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the revolutionaries in various parts of the world suffer, and those people with one creed who want to impose it on others also suffer from it. [passage omitted]

The communists wanted to impose their system on other peoples. But these others told them: Even if your system were good to us, we could not allow you to impose your rule and your program on us. Even if we approved of your program, we could not accept you imposing yourselves on us.

The same applies religion. Religion concerns you alone. A religious party in the Arab world comes and declares a strike. But the strike does not benefit the people. It only benefits party members. [passage omitted]

In the present age of the masses, no party, whatever it calls itself, can impose its creed on the masses, who want to decide their own fate.

There are examples of this before you, such as the crisis in Algeria. President Chadli Bendjedid could not come, and we had to postpone the Maghreb summit. [words indistinct] we all have witnessed. We have also witnessed the problems that took place in Tunisia, such as the partisan struggle for power.

Party plurality does not provide a solution at all. We advise our brothers in Algeria, Tunisia, and the Arab Maghreb—and this is sincere and fraternal advice—to impose the people's authority, establish the people's authority, set up people's conferences, and abolish partisanship. [applause] Plurality brings weakness to them. [applause] By God, party plurality is a farce. [passage omitted]

We advise our brothers that, if they are really seeking true democracy, not to waste their time and to abolish partisanship and set up people's conferences. Partisanship is nothing but empty talk and false altercations. It is an imported theory.

They hear of parties in the West. They hear that in the United States there is a Republican Party and there is a Democratic Party. The whole of the United States has two parties. The Republican Party represents the 400 rich families in the United States who struggle to keep the U.S. wealth in their hands. They formed a party so that the president and the government would be one of them. [passage omitted]

This is a very splendid system. You really want people's control? I have heard congresses say: We have contended with what was presented to us by our own control. We have set up people's committees for people's control; they control the implementation of our resolutions; they have brought the result of the control and put it in front of us; and here we submit it to the General People's Congress for inclusion in the formulation.

This does not exist in any other system. Go to any system in the world, and see if you can find a people's control like the people's control existing in the people's power in Libya. This makes us trust that this is the real solution in the end, to trust the people's power. [passage omitted]

In reality, we must not attach any interest in those around us and all over the world who are falling in the face of the march of the masses and who have cast doubt on the jamahiriy theory. They have cast doubt on themselves. They do not know. They perhaps dislike al-Qadhdhafi. I accept that somebody might dislike me, or a million people might dislike me. No harm done; one can dislike somebody who deserves being disliked for any reason, but when you cast doubt on the jamahiriy theory, you are casting doubt on yourselves. [passage omitted]

I do not accept any casting of doubt on efficiency and ability. I swear to God that the things I have seen done by congresses, committees, people's control, and planning bodies is something splendid. I have a long experience, I am well read, and it is as though I were living in

the whole world. No period of time passes without my reading a book on history, politics, and government systems in the world. It is not a question of whim, nor was I playing a card game; I cannot play cards. All I want is to know the truth. I assure you that what exists now in Libya is something great, splendid, and absolutely unparalleled. [applause]

You must continue forcefully and in full confidence in people's power, and in the effective alliance of the people's active forces. This is the real alliance. Abd al-Nasir proclaimed the alliance, but he did not complete it, because he was living in a theory of government that he could leave for the people's theory.

The alliance was set up, and a government was also set up parallel to it. Parallel to the national congress there was a parliament. Parallel to the Central Committee there was a government. Parallel to the basic units of the Socialist Union there were the governorates. It did not work. I am afraid that Sudan might fall for that same mistake.

Sudan now is proceeding along two parallel lines. These two lines will never meet. Two parallel lines will never meet, no matter long you extend them. They are proceeding along two parallel lines. They are setting up a government: elections and councils on the one hand, while on the other hand they are constructing the people's congresses. I am afraid that what happened to Egypt might happen to them. Egypt started the people's authority. Al-Nasir constructed it. He believed in the alliance of the people's active forces. But there was a government parallel to it. In the end, the people's authority failed in Egypt.

I am afraid that the same thing could happen in Sudan. From this place and on this occasion we are warning our brothers in Sudan.

Second, truly by God, there are things I see in the congress and even in the people's congress and in this congress of yours that never occurred to me. [passage omitted]

By God, neither I nor anyone else who is serious in watching the proceedings would have a negative impression at any session or period.

There is a positive impression and real confidence.

I am afraid of the conflict currently in the Arab homeland; the partisan conflict. With the exception of Libya and any country that becomes liberated and follows this course and enables the people to rule themselves. But by becoming partisans, I swear by God, my brothers, that you would be opening a dangerous door which will take us back to the Middle Ages.

You know, we say that the Arabs have occupied or entered Andalusia. [passage omitted]

The current conflict now in Algeria and Tunisia, this current partisan conflict, will lead to France occupying the Arab Maghreb again.

One of those parties in Algeria might contact the French and say to them: Help me and give me [word indistinct], and I will restore Algeria to you as it was before. That will be it. They will conquer and invade [words indistinct].

This is treason, and may God impose a curse on those who return to it. This treason is dormant, and may God's curse fall on those who bring it out of its slumber. If this treason takes hold of us, and because the rule is not held by the entire people, everyone will look after his own interest. He would say: I belong to this race. They invent things such as pre-Islam Arabs, Berbers, Arabs, and so on. We say that the Berbers were the original Arabs.

They told the Arabs: Since you new arrivals, who came after the emergence of Islam, have formed parties, so we pre-Islam Arabs, who became Berber, will have a party of our own, too. Thus, they brought Ait Ahmed from Europe and he formed a party. He said that if everyone seizes a piece of Algeria, we Berbers will also take a piece of Tizi Ouzou. We are not creating a state, and there are nothing but people there. Since everyone is drawing fire to his bread, we will draw the fire to our bread as well. Nobody returned and said [word indistinct].

The parties existed in Algeria even before independence. All of them failed to liberate Algeria until the National Liberation Front [FLN] came and liberated Algeria. It was the Front that brought all the fighters together.

The FLN, which offered 1.5 million sacrifices and which liberated Algeria, is having its program crossed out. Indeed, the liberation program itself is now in danger.

Why? Because there are about 40 parties competing with the FLN. Since the power is open and everyone can rule, they believe they might have the opportunity to rule.

A party leader came to me and told me the party opposing our party was given $100 million. A reactionary Arab state gave it $100 million and told him to go and form a party and contest. Thus, the parties began to obtain funds from abroad and seek to rule the country internally. This is an act of treason. They are traitors. It became a matter of buying and selling. [passage omitted]

We know all about parties and their newspapers. We know their affiliations and how they win elections and assume power. Every party extends its hand to a foreign side. Is this a solution? Forgive me, but it is silly in reality.

You have seen what happens to those who seek the help of foreigners. We have examples close to us: Numayri was a revolutionary and sided with us and against the United States. A communist coup was staged against him and he was arrested. We intervened on his behalf and the Sudanese people intervened and he was released from prison. He was put in a tank and he began to make speeches and the May [revolution of Numayri] returned.

That was because Numayri was against the United States, as well as against the USSR at the time, because the party that staged the coup against him was the Communist Party. He was also against America at that time.

When Numayri relied on the masses and on the people [words indistinct], they reinstated him. When he put his hand in the hand of Reagan, he fell in the road. He put his hand in the hand of Reagan, and that meant that [words indistinct] Reagan told him go and [word indistinct] the red carpet. [applause] When he relied on America, he fell.

Mengistu was against the United States and against imperialism and Zionism. He allied himself with us and was a revolutionary. He was doing well. Finally, he sought the help of Zionists and the Americans against his country and against his people. He said we must crush Eritrea and the Tigris [words indistinct], he said we will crush all the people.

We told him: Mengistu, this is shameful; these are your people. He said: No, there must be fighting; I now have with me Israeli pilots; they give me the cluster bomb and I have given them three bases in the Red Sea. This means final victory. As long as Israel is with me, he said, that is it; and the U.S. with me, that is it! I have now made my accounts, he said, if I go along with Israel this means that the United States will be pleased with me, and I am not going to be against imperialism. He took the pictures of Lenin and the other one with him, what is his name? Castro, no, not Castro, Marx, and broke them up, thus indicating that he was not a communist any more. He deliberately said: To hell with my revolutionary allies, the Libyans and others; after the United States and Israel, what else?

We told him: This was Numayri's line, and he fell, and as long as you are like that, then we are with the Tigreans, with the Oromo with Eritrea, and with the revolution of the Ethiopian people! [applause] We told him: We are with the Ethiopian people, with the popular revolution, and you are with the United States and Israel, and we shall see.

Tomorrow, for those who watch television, let the television broadcast my meeting with Zenawi, who is now ruling in Addis Ababa, at the head of the popular revolution [applause] and the meetings between me and the revolutionaries of Tigre, the revolutionaries of Oromo, and Eritrea, and the planning we made in the interest of the people's revolution. For Mengistu sided with Israel and the Americans and abandoned us. He was against his people. He used aircraft, cluster bombs, gases, and all this. But aircraft cannot kill the faith of the people. [words indistinct], and you can see these facts on film.

Praise be to God, the people's revolution has triumphed. This is the end of anyone relying on foreigners. [passage omitted]

Brothers, this is a historic turning point for the Horn of Africa, for Ethiopia. You must understand that our belief from now on is, historically and in accordance with historical sources and with real history itself, that what is called Ethiopia is an Arab state. It is in no way a foreign state [applause] and the Arab nation must not accept another Israel. Because the Israelis, citing Solomon, their prophet and king, son of David, said that Menelik was his son, who founded the royal family in Ethiopia, and therefore, they are the guardians of the Ethiopians. Thus, they have applied the enmity between the Arabs and the Israelis to the Ethiopians, so that this enmity can become an enmity between Ethiopians and Arabs.

Apart from the royal family, and with the exception of a few black groups, all other Ethiopians are Arabs. Zenawi, the leader of the revolution now in Ethiopia, said to me: I am a Yemeni, I know myself to be a Yemeni, we are Yemenis.

Apart from the royal family, the Ethiopians are Arabs. This Zenawi, the leader of the Ethiopian revolution, ("looks) Yemeni, and his name is Yemeni. They are Yemenis. [passage omitted]

Brothers, from now on we must recognize—and this is according to an agreement between me and the leadership of the revolution in Ethiopia. [sentence as heard] The support and aid were on the basis that Ethiopia is of Arabic origin and must return to the mother homeland. This is a conflict that could continue for a long time, against the church; against the West; and against Zionism. However, this is a position that we will never abandon. This is our country and these are our people. They are of Arab origin. Let whoever wants to laugh, laugh, and whoever wants to believe, let him believe. [applause] [al-Qadhdhafi turns to a map of Africa drawn on a blackboard behind him, asks for chalk, and starts drawing on it. The map shows the Arab world with no internal borders, only the borders with the rest of Africa and Asia are drawn]

Brothers, this is a political map. This a political map which says: This is Mauritania as a political regime and these are its borders. This is Algeria as an a political regime and these are its borders. Libya as a political regime and these are its borders; and Sudan. But as an Arab race, these are not borders. These are political borders. As for people, their existence can never be in this geometric form. It is not reasonable. This is a political line drawn by the colonialists. But people cannot be formed into this geometric form. [al-Qadhdhafi draws a straight line from the south of Sahara and Mauritania on the Atlantic to Somalia. Then he starts filling in north of the line with chalk]

These are the Arabs. Not politically. This is the Arab state and this is the Arab map. From now on, as far as Libya is concerned, the Arab homeland map will be this. [applause]

This is Somalia: it is an Arab country. This is Djibouti: it is an Arab country. [Al-Qadhdhafi fills in Ethiopia with chalk]

This is the Habashat tribe and this is the tribe of Himyars; the tribes of Banu Amir, al-Afr, and al-Isa, and this is Sudan; and here is the northern Kenya NFD [Northern Frontier District] sector [al-Qadhdhafi wrote the letters NFD on the map in Latin alphabet as he speaks]: it is Arab.

All of northern Kenya is Arab. Chad is Arab. In Niger, all the desert tribes are Arab. As for the negroes they (?merely arrived there). All Mali is Arab, the Tuaregs and the others are Arab tribes up to the Senegal river. These are the Arabs as a race and as an Arab existence. But as for the political borders, these are the borders.

Henceforth, this map should be changed. This Ethiopia is Arab. They are Arabs, and this has been agreed with their leadership. [applause]

Our brother revolutionaries in Ethiopia say: Bring us teachers, bring us curricula, and teach our children that they are Arabs and that they are of Arab origin and that the estrangement and isolation have ended with the toppling of the royal family and Mengistu who succeeded them.

Mengistu installed himself as another emperor. Now there is a people's revolution. We will dig our way to the future with self-confidence, with confidence in our historic course, with confidence in the people, and with confidence in the people's institutions within the context of the comprehensive Arab unity. This issue is settled.

On this occasion I salute the people's congresses in the Jamahiriyah, which ratified the 10 agreements I signed with the Arab Republic of Egypt. [applause]

From now on it is the right of every one of us to own a farm in the Nile Valley. To share in the Nile Valley, in the Nile water, in Nasir Lake, and in the High Dam, just like our brothers in Egypt. In exchange, the Egyptians have the right to share in the great man-made river, share in the oil, share in the gas, and share in the desert. They would have also to share in the confrontation with imperialism [word indistinct] Libya. [applause]

In fact, this is a historic step. This is a historic action. I mean what has been achieved between Libya and Egypt. Now everything is back to normal. The Arab homeland returned to the Arabs. The demographic distribution in the Arab world should be done in a just way, and not as the colonialists did it.

Now we have trampled on the borders made by the British and Italian colonialist, the borders which separated the sons of the one people.

In fact, we have struggled long to reach this stage for the whole Arab nation, that is to achieve the stage of the Arab citizen becoming free to reside, to move, and to own anywhere in his greater Arab homeland from the ocean to the Gulf. This has been achieved with Egypt.

Now we have to reconsider the agreements between us and some Arab countries, which might allow this. If these agreements allow that, then the Libyans should implement them immediately.

Every Libyan should ask for the right of ownership and residence in all countries with whom Libya has agreements. If he is refused, he should raise a case in the courts.

A court has now been formed. It is called the Judicial Body of the Arab Maghreb Union. If there is such an agreement between Libya and the Arab Maghreb countries, and if a Libyan citizen who had premanent residence in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, or Mauritania was prevented from that, he should raise a case before the Judicial Body. According to the agreements, a Libyan has the right to reside in any of the countries he chooses, just as if they were Libya. This in fact constitues a victory for the ordinary Arab citizen. For the rulers, the ministers, and so on do not move to reside in Tunisia or in any other country. They remain in their capitals. Thus, this is a victory for the ordinary Arab citizen. [passage omitted]

For the first time, the slogan will become a fact: Arab homeland for the Arabs, Arab petroleum for the Arabs, the Nile for the Arabs, the Euphrates for the Arabs, the Tigris for the Arabs.

If such agreements exist with Syria and Iraq, Libyans will have the right to go there and establish a farm on the Euphrates or on the Tigris.

It is left to the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison to review these agreements and submit them to the people's conferences to ascertain which agreements are of this type. But as of now, as of this day, the Libyans and Egyptians have become equal in rights and duties in terms of residence and movement in both countries. [applause] This is a great thing. Indeed, this is a great victory. This will pave the way for making our approach to the future within the framework of Arab unity.

Regarding the problems you touch upon in some items on your agenda, we must refer in respect of them to our Jamahiriyah theory. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the jamahiriy education, the freedom of education must be submitted repeatedly to the people's congresses until they assimilate them. The congresses are not against it, but perhaps it was not sumbitted in the correct way. For this is the solution and it is a must. You are obliged to have it. There is no state that guarantees official education forever. This is not possible. First, a teacher wants an allowance, and here you are today furious, and this is proof of the validity of the words I am saying. You are today shouting: We cannot give an allowance to teachers. Why not give an allowance to

teachers? Teachers deserve an allowance. You say: But we have nowhere to get the allowance from. This indicates that the state is unable to bear the cost of regular education.

Yes, at one specific period where people are in need, poor, [words indistinct] schools, but afterwards, private education must prevail. Do not tie me to a specific curriculum, or a specific study, if I want to be a carpenter. [passage omitted]

A teacher who wants to increase his income can open a school. You teachers, why beg the people to give you an allowance, which it may not give, and they are adopting their resolutions tonight, and talking about your allowance and humiliating you in front of the world. You should open a school and forget about this salary altogether, or take the salary given to you and open a school.

Brothers, you cannot, no state in the world can build schools for all pupils, for all the children who are born. This is not possible. [passage omitted]

No state, from the United States to China, Russia, Yugoslavia, Libya, no state can completely and permanently guarantee education, health, and related matters. At the end of the day you can only provide treatment to a group of people. The others would tell you: Find us a solution. I cannot find you a solution. You can ultimately build schools for a given and limited group of students, 30 percent, 20 percent, but for the rest you cannot build schools and provide teachers, maintenance, or things like that; this is misleading. Education and medical treatment should be private. The use of services of hospitals which charge a fee, which they praise and trust and get cursed in—even morally—is wider than those of your hospitals that are free. [passage omitted]

The same, brothers, should apply to employees. Their salary should be increased. But they should be prevented from taking other work apart from their regular job. [passage omitted]

An employee who runs a farm and owns a shop and a taxi service has four opportunities of earning. So it is not right for him to ask for an increase in pay. [passage omitted]

These work opportunities should be equally divided among the Libyans. These four opportunities should be distributed among four people. [applause] [passage omitted]

I have found out that officers and soldiers drive taxis, or are engaged with a farm, or a shop, or in middlemanship and trade. And they defend [the country], unlike us, carrying the rifle on their shoulder. I told them: This is it; you are no longer officer nor soldier. [Words indistinct] it has become a jamahiriyah. All the people carrying weapons, and this is it, there is no longer officer nor soldier, just the armed people on duty.

I have learned this only when things reached this level. Before, when I was an officer in the Libyan Army, these things were forbidden. We had a salary and an allowance and that was it. [passage omitted]

We want jamahiriy self-managed institutions relying on themselves, and let us forget about civil service. I advise anyone with a salary to get rid of this business. But we do know that those who get salaries have other incomes, and this is why [murmur in the audience]...we know, not all of them. Tell me how many do not have second incomes. [passage omitted] If the 30 percent are happy with their second incomes and leave us their salaries, then we would redistribute these salaries to the remaining 70 percent and we would thus increase our salaries [applause]

We must define the civil service functions; and first of all we should get rid of them. If had money, I would distribute it to you. But I am talking about your future. I am not deceiving you. Do not rely on salary increases; they cannot always be there when the income of the state is extremely limited.

All these problems in front of you—education, health—must be resolved by privatizing them so they may become the property of the masses.

How many foreign companies do we have in this country? How many? One hundred and fifty? One hundred and fifty or two hundred? More than 150 foreign companies! If only the Libyans could replace these 150 companies—set up 150 Libyan companies manned by Libyans, draw up contracts with Libyan society in the same way as a foreign company does, and all your problems would be solved! [applause] Cisterns, you all know what cisterns are—and fountains. Do they have to be dug for us by Korean, Chinese, or Greek companies? Could we not dig them ourselves? Could we Libyans not pave roads ourselves? This is money, millions and billions, which is going to foreigners. Why do not you take it? (?All you think of) is an increase in allowances and an increase in salaries. Why do you not dispense with foreign companies and replace them?

[Unidentified man in audience] We hope that what you are saying happens; we consider these words a good omen. Indeed, we have great potential for partnerships and for people who are prepared to work. However, regrettably, when these people come to work, they do work and are not remunerated. [Words indistinct] the people's committees—they sign a contract today, they take the first consignment today. This is the truth. We are prepared to implement any work in the construction sector, no matter what, but on condition that we are paid for it.

[al-Qadhdhafi] You are right. That is correct.

[Same unidentified man] Thank you.

[al-Qadhdhafi] They do not make the payments due to a domestic company. As for a foreign one, they make the payments due to it; otherwise, it sues them. A Libyan company should also have the right to sue any public

committee or the Libyan society and take its due share. [applause] The facilities of foreign companies—these are important and we have spoken about them. I think that a resolution on this has now been adopted, that the companies must be domestic and must employ Libyans, who would replace foreigners. The money, brothers, which you are giving to foreigners—you are giving billions to foreigners—you take it! [passage omitted]

We said that the cost of a house is 15,000 dinars. We say here that any Libyan citizen who wants to build a house in accordance with the specifications laid down by the People's Committee for Utilities should bring 15,000 with which to build a house. [laughs, referring to a member of the audience] He is already raising his arms. He should bring 15,000 only, and should pay in one, three, or ten installments; or borrow it from the bank.

I guarantee it; consider me the contractor of the poor and needy. [applause] All of you bring 15,000, and I will build you an excellent modern house. [passage omitted] That is all right; now it has become easy, even a loan of 15,000 is easy. It is no longer a problem. Now the people's committees set up by the people for planning the economy are busy with important programs and studies which, if adopted, would be submitted to the people's congresses. That is to say, we must not stand idle.

Can you imagine now that Libya is an oil-producing country and is proceeding in this way, public sector and so on? We have to take into consideration future generations, the future, Libya's position, its openness to the world and all its interactions. The committees are busy with a study concerning whether Libya could become an international tourist country, earning revenues from tourism—of which it is now totally deprived—as it does from oil. This is a idea to be examined.

Libya is full of the monuments of all invaders, the monuments of our previous generations, of Arab and Islamic patrimony, things which are rare, rare works of art, historical monuments, and sites that are very rare, which we are keeping under lock and key and not making any use of, because we prohibit tourism in Libya. If Libya is opened to tourism, if it becomes a tourist country, for example, it will be the greatest tourist country in the Mediterranean, because it extends over two thousand kilometers along the sea. Obviously, it will compete with Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Lebanon. And our brothers will all say: As a matter of fact, Libya has become a tourist country. This will bring revenues possibly similar to that of oil. This is a door we ourselves are keeping locked. Now there is a study concerning whether the Libyan people should open this door or not.

The other study concerns laying down a strategy whereby Libya could become a trading country. Libya's past has a history of trade throughout. The Phoenicians came to Libya for trade, as did the Greeks and the Romans; Germanic people build up a trading civilization here; all these kingdoms were based on trade. This is to say that Libya was originally a trading post; it did not have any water, oil, rain, industry, or agriculture—it was all trade. Is it possible—in modern times and in the world in which we live—that Libya could again become a trading country and that its peole could make a living from trade with the Mediterranean, with Europe, with Africa, with the West and the East? This could bring unlimited revenue and open a door for the people of Libya to make a living generation after generation.

How could it be that we are not paying attention to trade simply because we have oil? Could it transform this country into another country, a trading country? Ports are available along the Mediterranean coast; airports we have by the dozens; borders with the heart of Africa, with its east and west, with the Mediterranean and Europe. In this regard, internally, the subject of middlemanship—of which you never cease talking and which has become an insult, prohibited goods and a black market—should be regulated.

Middlemanship must be regulated by laws. If you want to be a middleman, then be a middleman in daylight. Regulated by laws, you will have rights and duties. You would abide by the law, and you would be brought to account in accordance with the law. So why act like a thief? A middleman is a respected man, practicing a trade, serving people. [passage omitted]

With regard to foreign relations, I am going to speak—I am not going to be long—about Britain. These British, I do not know what; you brought me one day a man who is an MP from Britain, from the Conservative Party, or I do not know which. He is a man who likes the Arabs and he is a good man. He brought his two sons, and he said he brought them to see al-Qadhdhafi and be photographed with him. They did come and were photographed with me in the tent. He is a good man and he said: I would like to put right the relationship between Libya and Britain.

We told him that for you, yes, it is all right. We are here; we have demands. We said we have demands: this and that and so on. Our sons are imprisoned in Britain. Britain took part in an aggression against us. Britain planted mines in Libya. Britain conspired against us. Britain handed over Palestine to the Jews. We have issues, and let us examine them.

He said: You are with the IRA; you are with Ireland. We said to him: Ireland is a just cause; we support it. Terrorism or no terrorism. He went on to talk about things like this. We told him: You saw our readiness. For you it is okay. You are a good man. Open the door. We do not want to find someone who extends his hand to us and then says no, we do not want to extend our hand.

He returned to Britain [words indistinct]. He began to make statements and he said: I met with al-Qadhdhafi, with the Libyan Foreign Ministry, and al-Bishari. I met I do not know who, I do not know which police quarter. They said they compensated the family or they gave the

British police compensation for this lady who was protecting the Libyan People's Bureau. She was hit by a stray bullet. She defended the people's bureau and she deserved veneration or appreciation.

[Words indistinct] I read it in newspapers. The British began to criticize us. Al-Qadhdhafi must personally apologize. Libya is a terrorist state. He is a dictator, and we do not need these relations. We are here [words indistinct]. To hell with Britain and with its relations until the day of judgment. [applause] Libya is not in need of relations with Britain. (?Curse them and Britain] [words indistinct]. To hell with America and Britain, as children would say.

Do you see? The sons of dogs, they think we are asking Britain. It is Britain who must come. Britain needs relations with Libya. It should come and kneel before Libya, so that we perhaps may open the file and say to it: Well, we may reconsider. [applause]

Yes, the newspapers went on to write: Britain is not responding to Libya. Britain says there is no possibility for resuming relations. Are we in need of relations with Britain? No. Britain is the one who needs to plead with Libya, and beg Libya, and come to Libya and put right its relations with Libya. We do not need it. [sentence indistinct]

To hell with it. We are champions of a cause on our own soil. We are living, free men with dignity.

As to America—a state which is suffering from megalomania and the madness of force like any empire—its end will be exactly like any empire that became arrogant. There is no doubt about this. Its end will be at the hand of the people. America, in fact, needs a defeat on Arab soil. It must be defeated so that it changes its idea about the Arabs; that is, they are not like what happened in the Gulf or what happened in (?Baghdad). It must be defeated.

This is one thing. If America remained beyond the Atlantic Ocean and treated nations like in the old days—the days of the French Revolution and before it; the free men of France presented the Statue of Liberty, which is now in America as a gift. They are the ones who gave it as a gift; it is a French statue. They gave it to America as a gift, because America was a bulwark of freedom at that time. It supported the nations that fought for freedom.

Today America has become the opposite. It has become an enemy of freedom. We call on America to return (?to its former self). This is better for it; otherwise it will come to an end. Its clothes are on fire everywhere. They are fighting against it in the Philippines; and the Red Army in Japan. They are fighting it in Europe. The revolution is against it in Liberia; the revolution is against it in Ethiopia; the revolution is against it in the Arab countries; the revolution is against in Latin America. Its generals every day are killed in Latin America. The entire world is aflame with revolution against America. It is proceeding toward its end. It is aligned with the Israelies without any concern for the Arabs. The Arab oil; the heroism and courage of the Arabs; the Arab kings and the Arab presidents can all go to hell as far as America is concerned. [passage omitted]

The question concerning America is that it carried out an act of piracy. This is not acceptable. Why did Argentina not come and take the Libyan POW's from Chad, for example? Why did Brazil not come and do this? Why did Yugoslavia not take the Libyan prisoners? If they did, the entire world would have denounced them. The world would say: Why do you interfere in the affairs of another state? [sentence indistinct] It is purely the madness of force. [passage omitted]

What we say about America is that President Husni Mubarak contacted me and was making some efforts. He said: Our relations with America are good, that is to say, Egypt and America. Consequently, this relationship could be good because your friend's friend is your friend. Egypt is our friend and a fraternal country. President Husni Mubarak is our brother. If his relationship is good with someone else, it should by necessity be good with us too.

Your enemy's enemy is your friend, and your friend's friend is your friend. This is what happened: President Husni Mubarak has said it continuously. I wish that America would let things...[sentence unfinished] The American President, I do not know, this Bush is different from Reagan. You heard him say: This American Administration, this one now, is the best administration with which you could have understanding. President Husni Mubarak says this openly. We have not seen anything of this in reality. We have not seen that the present American Administration is the best. President Husni says: This is the best administration with which one can have understanding.

All right, good, I am leaving the matter with President Husni Mubarak—as a matter of fact to Egypt. We do not need America. He says, however, even if nobody needs anybody, there should not be enmity to the extent of war, etc. I told him all right, we welcome anything which reduces tension. Regrettably, however, it seems that America, despite President Husni Mubarak's praise for it, does not take into consideration the prestige of any Arab, whether it is Egypt, Saudi Arabia, or Morocco. In reality America is not interested in them; only the Israelis have influence on it. It gives in to the Jews. As for Arabs, it takes their benefits and tells them: To hell with you. The proof of this is what is happening now. This is a matter left to President Husni Mubarak. As for the English, it is the case of someone who did good and reaped evil; they are making a fuss etc., to hell with them. We have announced this; it must be that clear. This is a matter of pride in which I personally intervene, it is not a matter of people's [word indistinct].

In general, I am really very pleased with all the things we have reached—confidence, achievements, relying on oneself, stubborn resistance to the mightiest power on

earth, which wanted to subjugate us, to put us in its pocket and tame us. We are steadfast and we are a country which makes diligent and sound progress on the way to the full emancipation [of the] people. We do not rely on America, Zionism, imperialism, or a foreign power. We rely on our people, the resources of our people, and the attachment of our people to decent life and to its dignity. This is the way that leads to good.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Regional Ties, Security

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[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim by 'Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Shahri] Next month your country will host the second meeting of the foreign ministers of the "Damascus Declaration" states. What will be the main topics for discussion?

[Al-Salim] The Damascus Declaration is actually based on three foundations: political, military, and economic. The Damascus Declaration laid down the broad guidelines and was initialled by the eight states, that is, the six Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, and Egypt and Syria. Two days ago a committee met in Qatar to work out the details of these foundations that we mentioned. The Kuwait meeting will approve the recommendations of the preparatory committee in this connection and so the basis of the first step will be defined. That is the situation in brief general terms.

[Al-Shahri] You mentioned the military aspect. There has been some controversy about the presence of Egyptian and Syrian forces in Kuwait. You deny any differences with Egypt, but the Egyptian press says the opposite. What is the truth? Will the Egyptian forces stay in Kuwait?

[Al-Salim] In my official capacity and as the person and official who has met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, I say that there are no differences whatsoever between Kuwait and Egypt. We talk to one another as officials. There are no differences at all between the Kuwaiti Government and the Egyptian Government or between our leaders. So why this clamor? There is an ulterior motive for the clamor. There are certain evil groups in the Arab world—they have been named by the heir apparent—whose aim is to divide Arab ranks and to destroy any Arab agreement, because they regard this cohesion, fraternity, and solidarity as something directed against them, directly or indirectly. Regrettably, some people heed these groups, but what has been published does not represent the Egyptian Government's policy or the fraternal Egyptian people's view of relations with Kuwait.

[Al-Shahri] But it has been claimed that one of the causes of the disagreement is Cairo's objection to your giving Iran a military role in the security arrangements for the region on the grounds that it is an Arab responsibility. Another reason....

[Al-Salim, interrupting] That is not true. Egypt has not discussed that matter with me or with the brother defense minister. It is a matter that concerns all the region's states. That is why I say it is not true.

[Al-Shahri] Another reason, it has been claimed, is that Cairo believes that its share in the reconstruction of Kuwait fell short of the level of Egypt's contribution to the liberation of Kuwait.

[Al-Salim] For Egypt, it is not a question of buying and selling. When President Muhammad Husni Mubarak supported Kuwait, he was standing up for the basic principles that he personally believes in—principles of noble ethics, faith in the unity of Arab ranks, and faith in Egypt's role and influence. There is another important point, namely, that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak represented the entire Egyptian people. The faith of that man and his government was in harmony with the Egyptian people's faith in their position and in their Arabism. These were the principles that prompted President Husni Mubarak's actions. As regards shares or anything like that, I believe Egypt is above all that. If it has been claimed that Egypt's contribution to Kuwait's reconstruction is part of a debt-settling process, then I, as a Kuwaiti, say that, on the contrary, this has been neither our thinking nor our intention. We trust Egyptian engineers because, as Arabs, they are close to us and familiar with our way of life and understand our reconstruction methods and needs more than others. Egyptian workers have proved themselves. That is why we have turned to Egypt. The Egyptians were with us before the invasion, but there is a sinister press and sinister groups that want to exploit this matter for the sake of selfish personal gains.

[Al-Shahri] Let us go back to the question of the region's security. My question is this: Are you in favor of a military role for Iran in the security arrangements?

[Al-Salim] It is not a question of support or objection. The task of the security committee headed by Sultan Qabus is to assess the security situation in the region and to lay down the broad guidelines and main features of security in the region at the level of the GCC. The Damascus Declaration completes the other face of the coin, that is, the Arab aspect of the region's security. The committee chaired by Sultan Qabus is concerned with the GCC states' security. Iran is an important Islamic neighbor state overlooking the Gulf. Therefore, there should be a dialogue with Iran based on mutual respect, noninterference in domestic affairs, and exchange of views on the future of the region's security. That would guarantee the region's security and stability. We should know how Iran thinks and Iran should know how we think. That would give the region security and stability.

[Al-Shahri] Has a date been set for a dialogue between you and Iran on that?

[Al-Salim] The dialogue has not stopped. It has been continuing through the committee.

[Al-Shahri] Are you referring to the committee headed by Sultan Qabus?

[Al-Salim] Yes, and before I assumed the post of foreign minister, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs

brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi was entrusted with the task of contacting the Iranian brothers. Also there can be no doubt that [Saudi Foreign Minister] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Iran was for the purpose of opening a dialogue and discussing Saudi-Iranian relations as well as GCC-Iranian relations.

[Al-Shahri] May we know the main topics broached by the security committee?

[Al-Salim] No. The committee makes studies and submits broad guidelines for regional security policy. The committee has not completed this yet.

[Al-Shahri] What is Kuwait's concept of security for the Arab Gulf region?

[Al-Salim] Our aim is to prevent a repetition of the oppressive invasion that targeted not only Kuwait but also the remotest Gulf state, namely the Sultanate of Oman. Cars that we found here carried plates that read: Iraq-Saudi Arabia, Iraq-Bahrain, Iraq-Qatar, Iraq-Oman, Iraq-[United Arab] Emirates. That makes unity of ranks a necessity and, thank God, we do have it. It also calls for an exchange of security information, which is an important point, and for the development of the Desert Shield forces on the basis of what we have all been through, or creating a desert shield with a different concept and a new military thinking. These are the general Kuwaiti ideas.

[Al-Shahri] What you are proposing somewhat conflicts with your call for the continued presence of U.S. forces. How long will these forces stay?

[Al-Salim] It is not a government call. It is what the Kuwaiti people want. You must have heard this in the lobbies. The Kuwaitis want their government to guarantee their future security. The Americans are here and the British are here. They will withdraw after a period of time.

[Al-Shahri] How long a period, in your view?

[Al-Salim] By God, they may not stay beyond the end of this year.

[Al-Shahri] Do you mean they will withdraw before the end of this year?

[Al-Salim] Approximately, yes. These matters are actually in fulfillment of the Kuwaiti people's wishes. That is why his highness (the amir) said what he did in his speech. He did not say it haphazardly but in accordance with the people's wishes, which he sensed himself. At present there is a UN security force in the border area (with Iraq). Arab unity of ranks and the Damascus Declaration will complete that aspect of Kuwait's future security.

[Al-Shahri] So, in the event these forces' withdrawal, the alternative will be Arab forces.

[Al-Salim] Yes, and the Kuwaiti defense minister's tour of the GCC states, Egypt, and Syria will actually focus on that. We have received full support. The final analysis is that the GCC states stand united, and we have found Egypt and Syria willing to send, if asked, whatever forces are required by Kuwait.

[Al-Shahri] So far, the Jordanian, Sudanese, Yemeni, and PLO embassies have not reopened. Do you intend to maintain the freeze on your relations with these states, which supported Iraq's invasion of Kuwait?

[Al-Salim] We are now at the stage of setting our house in order again. We will discuss that matter when the time comes.

[Al-Shahri] In your country I have heard that you would never restore relations with these parties. Is that the serious thinking and real intention of your government?

[Al-Salim] Since you used the phrase "I have heard," it is a rumor, and we do not rely on rumors. There is a topic for every hour.

Cabinet Discusses Regional Ties; Amnesty Decree

LD1906110291 London KUNA in Arabic 1945 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 18 Jun (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti cabinet has praised the blessed meeting that took place last Sunday between the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and his brother the amir of the country, during the former's visit to his country, Kuwait, and his audience there with his family and the sons of his clan.

The Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, said the cabinet has stressed that this generous brotherly visit came as an embodiment of the ties of proximity, blood relations, and historical links between the two fraternal countries and peoples. It provided the people of Kuwait with a long-awaited opportunity to express their utmost gratitude and thankfulness for everything that the dear Kingdom had, and is, giving to its sister Kuwait; for the historical and courageous stance of the Kingdom, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, in rejecting the treacherous aggression against the State of Kuwait; for its total solidarity with it; for its support of right and justice; and for its combating the tyranny, until God blessed our dear country with victory and liberation.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs also said the cabinet had reviewed the contents of the meeting that took place today between His Highness the amir of the country and his brother, His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. While praising the results of the visit of the great quest for its strengthening of the ties of affection and cooperation between the two fraternal countries, the

cabinet also expresses its utmost thanks and appreciation for the stance of the president, government, and people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which had a thorough impact in liberating Kuwait and expelling the Iraqi occupier from all of the State of Kuwait's territories.

He said the cabinet affirms that Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations will grow in strength and firmness, to the benefit of two peoples in the two fratneral states, the Arab and Islamic homelands.

Minister al-'Uthman said the cabinet welcomes tomorrow's visit to Kuwait by Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of the fraternal State of Bahrain to meet with the amir of the land, may god preserve him. [passage omitted]

He said the cabinet acquainted itself with the message that the amir of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah had received from the Romanian president, Ion Iliescu, which dealt with bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in light of the positive results of the visit the Romanian prime minister, Petre Roman, made to Kuwait last month. [passage omitted]

Al-'Uthman said that now that God has blessed our dear homeland with liberation and the Kuwaiti people have regained their freedom and sovereignty over their land under the aegis of their legitimate leaderships, the cabinet discussed, in response to the amir's sublime wishes, a draft decree providing for the grant of a general amnesty in respect of all sentences passed prior to the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, with the exception of the crime of premeditated murder, which will not be covered by the amiri pardon. The cabinet approved this draft decree and forwarded it to the amir's bureau. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Journalists Interview Interior Minister

NC1806213391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Jun (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Sabah has praised the role played by sisterly Egypt in liberating his country and described Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations as strong, solid, and longstanding. He said these ties will become stronger in the future, considering the relations between the leaders of the two countries and the amity linking the two peoples.

Speaking today to a team of Egyptian journalists currently visiting Kuwait, the interior minister said the security cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait is broad and is being maintained at the highest levels on a constant basis, adding that the scope of this cooperation goes beyond anyone's imagination.

The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that some unacceptable practices occurred in the post-liberation period, when emotions ruled over reason, but when the legitimate authority swiftly regained control of the situation, things returned to what they were before 2 August. He affirmed that stability now prevails in the country and that each citizen and resident is safe and enjoys security under the rule of law.

Regarding those currently being tried for collaborating with the Iraqi authorities during the occupation of Kuwait, Shaykh Hamud al-Sabah noted that they had been sent to trial by the public prosecution after being investigated. He said before that they were interrogated by the police, they investigated their cases and ascertained that the charges leveled against them were not merely slander. He said all these steps proceeded according to Kuwaiti law.

The Kuwaiti interior minister said that the number of Egyptian detainees in Kuwait is 70, nine of whom are accused of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation troops. The rest are held on charges of illegal entry into the country. He stressed that investigations of them will proceed swiftly to clear up their cases as soon as possible. The minister denied the presence of militias in Kuwait. He added: Some individuals possess weapons and ammunition, and we are currently collecting them. He noted that these people have been given until 2 July to hand in their weapons and ammunition and after that, anyone who possesses an unlicensed weapon will be punished. He noted that a wide-scale search operation will be conducted after that deadline to arrest violators.

The Kuwaiti interior minister noted that residents facing no charges may leave Kuwait and that their rights, such as end-of-service pay, will be maintained and sent to them in their home country. The minister stressed that feelings of caution and insecurity will linger as long as the current regime in Baghdad, led by Saddam Husayn, remains in power. He noted that a security belt will be established along the entire Kuwaiti-Iraqi border as soon as these borders are delineated next month.

The Kuwaiti interior minister disclosed that the government is currently working on a study to establish a new system of sponsorship [for workers in Kuwait] that aims to eliminate problems that existed before 2 August. The minister noted that priority for employment in Kuwait will be given to Egyptian workers and that citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council states are the only ones entitled to work in Kuwait without a Kuwaiti sponsor, under the rule of reciprocity. The minister noted that the government is conducting a serious study on the issue of residents without a nationality.

Shaykh Hamud al-Sabah pointed that out that several police stations have been joined together as one because of Iraqi damage to most of the police stations, not because of a manpower shortage. The minister emphasized that the process of reorganizing the demographic makeup of Kuwait aims primarily to achieve security and safety, as well as to keep the original inhabitants at a certain level.

Lebanese Minister Conveys Al-Hirawi Message

LD1906102191 London KUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 June 91, (KUNA)—His Highness the amir of the State of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received Faris Buwayz, foreign minister of the sisterly Lebanese Republic, and his delegation at 0915. The Lebanese minister delivered a message from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. [passage omitted]

Court Imprisons Defendants in 'Artists' Case

LD1906132391 London KUNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Jun (KUNA)—The third circuit of the Military Court in Kuwait this morning passed imprisonment sentences ranging from five years to life on a number of defendants who were convicted of collaboration with the Iraqi occupation authorities during the treacherous occupation of Kuwait. The case of the defendants was known as that of the "Artists."

Presided over by Judge al-'Abdallah this morning, the court acquitted one of the defendants in other cases and deferred sentence on another.

The court sentenced Zannubah 'Abd-al-Khadir 'Ashur known as Zaynab al-Dahi, Khalaf 'Alwan Jallud, Qasim Salih Bashir, and 'Umar Muhammad Nadil, in their presence, to life imprisonment at labor and to deportation after the completion of their sentences. It passed the same sentence on 'Adil 'Afanah, Yusuf 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Saqr, and 'Aziz Saqr al-'Amiri in their absence.

It also sentenced Salih Ahmad 'Ali known as Imbayrik to 15 years imprisonment at labor and deportation, Naji 'Abdallah al-Joburi to 10 years' imprisonment, Ihsan Sabri Sawadi, and Husayn Jum'ah Karim to five years' imprisonment.

The court acquitted the defendant Sattar Jabbar 'Ali in respect to the charges leveled against him and refrained from announcing its sentence in respect of the defendant 'Abdollah Mishari al-Sayf, who is a Kuwaiti.

On the other hand, the court passed the following sentences in its sitting this morning on a number of defendants who were accused of "aiding the occupation, theft, forgery, and possession of arms":

1. Hasan Dakhil Hasan Husayn, a non-Kuwaiti, to five years imprisonment at labor with deportation.

2. Fu'ad Ibrahim 'Ali, a non-Kuwaiti, refrainment from the pronouncement of sentence with the maintenance of good conduct for two months.

3. Mahmud 'Ali Qasim, a Jordanian, to 10 years imprisonment at labor with deportation

4. Mahdi Kuttab 'Atiyah al-Shammari, a non-Kuwaiti, acquittal.

The court postponed the consideration of 10 other cases pending further study and the summoning of witnesses, until next month when two sittings will be held for the purpose. It also deferred two other cases until 26 January when it will pronounce its sentences.

Yemen

Ethiopian Ambassador Requests Asylum

NC1906203191 Paris AFP in English 2021 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Sanaa, June 19 (AFP)—Ethiopia's ambassador to Yemen, Germa Wild Mariam [name as received], has asked for political asylum in Sanaa, the Yemeni Government said Wednesday.

The envoy defected after Ethiopia's provisional government summoned all ambassadors to Addis Ababa, Ethiopian diplomatic sources here said.

The foreign ministry said it could take "a long time" before the presidential council accepted or turned down the request.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali recently said that Yemen would "grant political asylum to Ethiopian refugees who ask for it, and assist those who want to return to their country."

Up to 4,000 members of the Ethiopian Army have taken refuge in Yemen since Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam fled his country last month and was replaced by the rebel Ethiopian People's Democratic Revolutionary Front (EPDRF).

The new Ethiopian cabinet on Wednesday formally banned the previous government's political party and abolished the structures of the defense and interior ministries and the army. Police were "disqualified from duty."

Ethiopian radio reports said civil servants not involved in security activities would retain their salaries.

Saddam Reportedly Forms Overseas Terrorist Gangs

NC2006061391 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Continuing the policy of blind vengeance against the popular opposition, the rejected and ignominious Saddam has adopted a new totalitarian practice in deciding to form secret mercenary gangs whose task will be to assassinate Iraqi opposition figures living abroad. According to informed rebel sources, these gangs will pose as official committees and delegations on various world tours and will carry out their criminal acts to terrorize and eliminate opposition members. The sources added that the disgraceful tyrant has allocated a $5 million budget for these terrorist gangs.

Senior Officers Reportedly Killed in Coup Attempt

NC1906143091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Press sources in Beirut today reported that there had been several attempts to overthrow the regime of defeated tyrant Saddam Husayn since his defeat in the Gulf war.

The sources said that the latest serious attempt took place three weeks ago. The attempt failed, however, after 18 senior Army officers, including a number of Republican Guard commanders, were killed.

Paper Says Iran Joining 'Anti-Iraqi Alliance'

JN1906111791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jun (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that the recent statement by the U.S. and French presidents on their desire to develop relations with Iran indicates that the anti-Iraq alliance, including the Tehran government, has begun to take shape by playing the card of all-out pressure on Iraq.

In an article today, the paper adds that the statements made by these quarters are part of a comprehensive plan to terminate Iraq's revolution and experience in free and independent construction. These are also the same quarters that launched military aggression against Iraq—an aggression preceded and followed by an economic aggression.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the West and the United States feel that Iran is now more inclined to join the new security order, in which it enjoys a special privilege in terms of population, area, and economic resources. It adds that this is in line with the aggressive and expansionist Iranian policy, which aims at weakening Iraq and interfering in its internal affairs in a bid to assert its regional hegemony.

Concluding, the paper stresses that the comprehensive conspiracy will be confronted by a stronger, more solid Iraq, and by Iraqis who are capable of smashing the aggressive waves, one after the other.

Iraq Elected Coordination Chairman With ILO

JN1806154591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1432 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—Iraq was elected chairman of the coordination committee between the Arab group and the ILO [International Labor Organization] during the ILO conference, currently being held in Geneva.

In a statement to INA, Umid Midhat Mubarak, labor and social affairs minister and head of the Iraqi delegation to the conference, said that the delegation has foiled the attempts of the Kuwaiti regime and some other Arab regimes to move the headquarters of the Arab Labor Organization from Baghdad and to expell Iraq from the chairmanship of the coordination committee. He described the results the Iraqi delegation achieved during the conference as important and positive in terms of bolstering Iraq's relations with world states.

Cabinet Endorses Proposals To Halt Smuggling

JN1906155691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Today, the Council of Ministers held an ordinary session under Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi. Deputy Prime Ministers Tariq 'Aziz and Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi were present.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said that the Council discussed topics listed on its agenda and made the necessary decisions.

In a statement to INA, he added that the Council endorsed proposals to halt the smuggling out of Iraq of sheep and goats, grain, cars, and vehicles needed for production; to make the punishment for smuggling more severe; and to set up controls to tackle it.

Shamir on Linking Loan Guarantees, Peace Process

TA1906155691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has called on Syria to open its gates and allow the Jewish community there to leave. The prime minister appealed to Europe and the United States to exert international pressure on the Syrians. Shamir was speaking before the Zionist Executive a short while ago in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called on Europe and the United States to exert pressure on Syria to make it release its remaining Jews. The prime minister asserted that over 4,000 Jews remain in Syria and that they are forbidden to immigrate to Israel.

[Shamir] It is inconceivable that Syria aspires to be accepted by the civilized world while holding its Jews as prisoners. Therefore, we call on the free and democratic countries, led by the United States, to demand that the Syrian authorities end their discriminatory practices, stop denying these Jews their rights, and permit them to leave freely. [applause]

[Segal] As for continuing the construction of settlements, which Shamir declared yesterday in Bet Arye, the prime minister stressed that building was proceeding. He addressed the threat issued by sources in the U.S. Administration regarding a halt in the flow of funds. Shamir said that there were people in Washington who would like to make the guarantees for immigrant absorption loans conditional on progress in the political process. This is dangerous, Shamir warned.

[Shamir] I think—and many people in the United States are of the same mind—that the great humanitarian mission of helping absorb immigration should not be made conditional on or linked to the results of political negotiations. These are two separate issues.

[Segal] And on the matter of Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz, one of the members of the Zionist Executive asked Shamir why he had not fired the minister. Shamir again said that these unnecessary quarrels must be stopped, and answered humorously.

[Shamir] Well, there are a lot of people here you can ask why I have not been fired. [laughter] As for dismissals, there is a certain political system in Israel and, although the prime minister is legally entitled to dismiss any minister, there are different circumstances and conditions, and I have yet to see prime ministers who fire cabinet ministers right away because they have said something the prime minister does not like. I believe that if I behaved in this manner I would not have any ministers left. [laughter]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 19 June adds that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that despite the differences with the United States regarding the ways of furthering the Middle East peace process, the close and special relationship between the two countries have not and will not be affected. In a speech before the Zionist Executive in Jerusalem, the prime minister said that the fact that the Arab states are stubbornly demanding an international conference and the participation of the United Nations raises doubts as to their readiness to make peace with Israel. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that, according to the prime minister, there has been no change in the tendency of the Arab regimes to turn to war, violence, and terrorism to achieve political aims."]

Levi Briefs Shamir on U.S. Talks, Aid Vote

TA2006062791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi reported to the prime minister this morning on his Washington talks with Secretary of State Baker. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the two discussed Baker's proposal to provide Israel with a written commitment that if differences crop up between Israel and the Arabs during negotiations, the United States and the USSR will not permit the issue to be transferred to the Security Council for discussion.

Political sources in Jerusalem said this morning that they were not surprised by Congress' approval of U.S. aid to Israel. Our correspondent reports that difficulties are expected, however, in the approval of guarantees for $10 billion loans for immigrant absorption over the coming five years if settlement continues. A decision on that will be made in Washington in September. [passage omitted]

Arens Discusses Ties With South Africa

TA1906093891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 91 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] "I do not expect military ties between Israel and South Africa to be strengthened following the canceling of the racial discrimination law, but if the apartheid regime is abolished, then I assume that relations will be strengthened in the civilian field and might return to what they were several years ago," Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in an interview with HA'ARETZ on the eve of his departure for France and the United States.

Arens leaves today for Paris with his media adviser Dani Nave. The defense minister will visit the Paris Air Show at Le Bourget and will confer with his French counterpart. They will discuss military cooperation between Israel and France. Arens then flies to the United States, where he will meet with Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, who visited Israel two weeks ago.

On the aims of his U.S. visit, Arens said: "I have been invited by the United Jewish Appeal; I will address

them. In my meeting with Cheney, we will continue the talks we conducted in Israel on strategic cooperation." The defense minister said that he will not present any new requests to Cheney.

In response to a question of whether Israel has a clear and detailed response to President Bush's initiative to control the Middle East arms race, especially demilitarizing the region of nonconventional arms, he said: "A detailed answer is not called for at this moment. We will conduct discussions in Israel and with the Americans, and I assume that in the final analysis we will reach an agreement."

The defense minister was asked whether there has been a change in the defense establishment's thinking in the wake of declarations by Arab leaders in the territories about a reassessment on the intifadah. He said: "I cannot speak for the leaders in the territories, and it is not clear if all the details involved in the reassessment are known to us. I can only express my hope that the reassessment—if it does indeed exist—will lead them to the conclusion that nothing can be achieved through violence." On the defense establishment's plan to set up an appointed committee to run Gaza, Arens said: "We are trying to advance that plan and to create the conditions that would permit its implementation."

Arens To Meet Soviet Minister at Paris Air Show

TA1906162491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that he will meet with a Soviet minister at the Paris Air Show at the Soviets' request. Arens refused to reveal what they will discuss during their meeting. Israeli officials asserted that it involved the Soviet Union's proposal to sell Israel a system to intercept Scud missiles.

[At 1605 GMT, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew on 19 June notes that the Soviet official Arens is scheduled to meet is the minister of aviation industry.]

Arens To Tell Cheney Baker Visit 'Undesirable'

TA2006050491 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] In his upcoming meeting with Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, Defense Minister Arens intends to express the government's reservations about Secretary of State James Baker's continued involvement in the peace process. Political sources in Jerusalem told DAVAR that these remarks will be made with the consent of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and on the assumption that Cheney will relay the message to President Bush. Arens will also say that another Baker visit to Israel is undesirable. If he comes nonetheless, he will be received only by Foreign Minister David Levi and not by the prime minister or defense minister.

Arens' message derives from the fury in the Prime Minister's Office over Baker's remarks about senior Israeli public figures and officials.

The political sources refer to examples of Baker's offensive attitude toward Minister Arens, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, and his recent diatribe against Yosi Ben-Aharon, as well as Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. Jerusalem has still not forgotten Baker's blunt attack on Ambassador Zalman Shoval, which went way beyond what was called for under the diplomatic code. It was assumed then, too, that Baker's intention was to attack Shamir through Shoval, just as his harsh attack on Ben-Aharon was aimed at his boss, Yitzhaq Shamir.

It has also been learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is furious about the line currently being adopted in Washington, under Baker's inspiration, linking guarantees for immigrant absorption loans to the settlement issue and the political process. Shamir says that the United States has never attached any political conditions to humanitarian aid. In the past, there were cases in which conditions were attached to military or economic aid, but never humanitarian aid, such as that for immigrant absorption.

Arens on Arrow Missile, Defends Nave Appointment

TA1806181991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was today the setting for strident criticism from both right- and left-wing members over the appointment of Dani Nave for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman and over the chief of staff's performance. The defense minister, who was a guest of the committee, defended the chief of staff and the Nave appointment. The minister also revealed that the Arrow will be operational within five years. Our Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has more details:

Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the committee that the Arrow missile will be operational within five years. Israel has undertaken not to pass locally developed technology to third parties. Today, he said, weapons can be purchased without restriction, and Israel's relative advantage vis-a-vis the Arab countries lies in research and development. The limited defense budget, however, does not permit purchasing from local industries. The budget cuts we are making are aimed at adapting ourselves to the budget, he said. [passage omitted]

The defense minister came to the chief of staff's defense, saying: Ehud Baraq has the thankless job of operating within a narrow budgetary framework. The IDF has an excellent chief of staff, who is both wise and brave in and outside the battlefield. I suggest we give him credit and support, because he is doing the right things. All of us should support the chief of staff, and it is too soon to launch crusades against him. [passage omitted]

Committee Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar endorsed Knesset member Yosi Sarid's recommendation to set up a subcommittee to supervise arms purchases and sales, in a bid to prevent immoral conduct.

Nave Asks Not To Be Appointed IDF Spokesman

TA1806185191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] The following is an announcement by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, has accepted the request of Dani Nave not to be appointed IDF spokesman. The chief of staff expressed the certainty that Dani Nave's professional aptitude renders him very worthy of the position of IDF spokesman, public criticism of the appointment notwithstanding. However, the chief of staff respected Dani Nave's request. This was the IDF spokesman's statement.

[In a similar report, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 18 June adds that Nave's decision "was motivated by a desire to put an end to the public debate around his appointment, which he believes has caused damage to the IDF and to the chief of staff."]

Air Force Commander on Lessons of Gulf War

TA1906141791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jun 91 pp 1, 14

[Report by army affairs correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpt] "The assumption that a war will not break out within the next two years—an assumption that underpins the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] work plans—is a mistaken one. And even if such an assumption is made, there is no point in publishing it in the media." This statement was made by Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Israeli Air Force [IAF] commander, during a special interview marking IAF Day, which was published today in BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR.

"All the media reportage of this hypothesis is dangerous and unfounded," Bin-Nun said. "They may lead to a feeling of insouciance in the army and among the public, and create the impression that the IDF is not prepared for a war in the near future."

It was reported yesterday that Major General Bin-Nun's tenure had been extended for at least an additional six months by the defense minister and the chief of staff, until the beginning of 1992. The IAF commander was scheduled to leave his post in September 1991.

The defense minister and the chief of staff have decided that the IAF has now entered a complicated stage, which requires significant budget cuts and the drawing of conclusions from the Gulf War, and this necessitates Bin-Nun's remaining in the post for an additional period.

"The major lessons drawn by the IAF from the Gulf War are not necessarily the official IDF conclusions," Bin-Nun said in an interview to the IAF organ, adding that "for us, in the Air Force, there is no doubt that the next war can be decided from the air, on the condition that we have the capability to achieve air supremacy within a short time. These capabilities permit victory with a minimum of casualties.

"In such a situation, the ground fighting, while unavoidable, will become a kind of excursion, with very few casualties—just like with the U.S. forces during the Gulf War."

The IAF commander noted that nearly all Arab countries have realized that the air force can decide the war's outcome, and they are building up their air forces, upgrading their air defenses, and purchasing precision-guided weapons.

In the interview, Maj. Gen. Bin-Nun addressed the Syrian-Lebanese brotherhood treaty and asserted that it was still difficult to accurately assess its implications; however, "any Syrian attempt to prevent us from flying over Lebanese airspace to hit terrorist bases and to defend ourselves from the Syrian Air Force could lead to a serious deterioration," he warned.

"The IAF will not countenance any Syrian attempt to change the aerial status quo in Lebanon. If the Syrians try to obstruct our activities or to station surface-to-air missiles on Lebanese territory—Israel will be forced to react." [passage omitted]

Neubach Warns of U.S. 'Pretext' To Cut Aid

TA2006092391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 91 p A2

[Report by Tzvi Zrahya]

[Excerpts] Israel's economic attache in Washington, Amnon Neubach, sent a cable to Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i yesterday warning that the U.S. Administration is liable to use the absence of a clear Israeli economic policy as a pretext for not increasing aid to Israel. "Evaluations voiced here say that out of a desire to avoid battling the aid issue with the Jewish lobby, the administration will claim that Israel has not implemented the reforms called for by the task of absorbing immigrants and that, therefore, an aid increase would be 'throwing good money after bad'."

Neubach added that a meticulous economic plan, which would reflect Israel's economic trends and the intent to improve the system and reduce government involvement, must be prepared.

According to him, the plan should be based on goals and a reasonable timetable. A group of economists conversant with the plan should be able to supply answers both to the administration and Congress. [passage omitted]

Neubach reported that in talks with friends of Israel, he learned that they feel that, on the one hand, the Israeli Government is overinvolved in every sphere, and on the other, it has failed in creating an atmosphere conducive to investment.

He was also told that Israel is the last country in which a socialist economic regime prevails and that it does not do enough for the absorption of immigrants.

U.S. Expected To Back Syria on Golan Issue

TA2006053591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 91 pp A1, 4

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] In return for an affirmative Syrian reply to the American compromise proposals on the peace conference issue included in Bush's message, the United States has offered to support Damascus' demand for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, to remove Syria from the list of countries that support terrorism, and to grant Syria substantial economic aid. This was stated yesterday by a senior political source in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador in Washington, expressed support Tuesday for a defense pact between Israel and the United States which would include U.S. guarantees for Israel's defense. Nevertheless, Shoval said that if such an accord restricts Israel's freedom of action to defend its security—including the right to carry out deterrent actions—it will be detrimental.

In an address to the American Peace Institute, a research institute headed by former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Sam Lewis, Shoval also voiced criticism of U.S. policy in the Middle East, arousing reservations among some Americans present. He said, among other things: "Making a country like Syria responsible for defending the security of another Arab country is like leaving the cat in charge of the canary."

Shoval also criticized the view that the Palestinian problem is the main or even sole reason for Middle East instability. "That approach is like saying: Do not bother me with the facts," Shoval said.

'Text' of Badran's Resignation to King Husayn

JN2006091491 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1748 GMT 19 Jun 91

["Text" of Prime Minister Mudar Badran's letter of resignation to King Husayn in Amman on 18 June 1991—read by announcer]

[Text] My Lord, Your Hashemite Majesty, Exalted King Husayn, may God preserve you:

I am honored to express to Your Majesty my sincerest sentiments of allegiance and loyalty, coupled with my prayers to God Almighty to grant Your Majesty good health and preserve you as a leader and a champion.

I was honored, my lord, when you assigned me the task of bearing the responsibility of forming the government at the beginning of the democratic march in our beloved homeland on the basis of freedom, justice, and the supremacy of the law. With your majesty's support, my government endeavored to implement its program through close cooperation with Parliament, thus laying the foundations of popular participation to consolidate the democratic path in an atmosphere of tolerance and constructive dialogue, and with the determination to confront the challenges in order to realize further progress, development, and reform in the service of beloved Jordan.

Through its commitment to the letter and spirit of the constitution, my government worked to provide a general atmosphere of free thinking and a climate of freedom in the political, information, and social spheres.

Despite the fledgling nature of the democratic experiment, the difficulties in understanding and implementing it, and the internal and external challenges that Jordan had to face, the government was able to implement its programs in the political, economic, and social domains.

Your Majesty, sir:

Under your inspired leadership, Jordan passed through one of the most serious crises ever to face the nation and overwhelm the region—namely, the Gulf crisis. Jordan was able to remain steadfast and to continue reconstruction in an unprecedented manner. My government was honored to shoulder the burden in these difficult circumstances, and was able to preserve Jordan's credibility and overcome the economic and social repercussions of this crisis.

Now that Jordan has completed a significant phase in its democratic march, and is trying to begin a new phase whose inauguration Your Majesty blessed when the National Conference approved the Charter with all that it represents in terms of aspirations and horizons at this stage, I would like to tender my government's resignation to your exalted majesty in order to make room for another team to shoulder the responsibility.

I take this opportunity to extend to your exalted office on behalf of my colleagues and in my own name our sincerest appreciation, gratitude, and recognition for the trust you have placed in us to serve beloved Jordan, and for your constant support to us.

We pray God to take care of Jordan, to preserve Your Majesty as leader of this good march, and to grant you good health and happiness.

[signed] Your sincere servant, Mudar Badran.

[dated] Amman, 18 June 1991.

King's 'Letter of Designation' to Al-Masri

CM2006094091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jun 91 pp 20-21

["Text" of King Husayn's letter of designation to Tahir al-Masri, charging him with the formation of the new Jordanian Government, in Amman on 19 June]

[Text] Your Excellency dear brother Tahir al-Masri, God preserve you. We extend to you our greeting of love, confidence, and appreciation. We have been pleased by our close acquaintance with you over the past two decades, during which we followed your performance in every public position you assumed. You have always been a qualified, honest, and dedicated person, who developed his experiences and benefited from them; who shouldered his responsibility with bravery, awareness, and honesty; who is committed to the homeland's interests; who has worked for the homeland's strength and the progress of good in it; who expressed his views through his positions and work regarding Jordan's national unity—the title of the homeland's strength and the basis of construction and development in it.

After the government of His Excellency Mudar Badran resigned, I was pleased to entrust you with the formation of the new government, as the National Charter won the people's blessing and approval and as our country was passing through critical circumstances that require much vigilance and much persistent effort on all levels and in various areas to complete what was begun by the resigning government so as to consolidate the bases of democracy and to tackle the economic and social problems, which have been increased by the Gulf crisis. This requires a concentration of our determination, will, energies, collective efforts, and an overall and advanced view of our internal situation in general, our painful Arab situation, and the current changes in the world and their new policies and trends that will reflect on our region, of which we are an integral part.

Our people's approval of the National Charter is a beginning of a new stage, which requires us to stress the following principles, concepts, and foundations as a basis for your government's program for achieving the desired goals, with God's help.

In principles:

First: National unity is the main basis for the homeland's strength and development. Jordan has always been a homeland for all the Arabs and an integral part of its nation. We, the Arabs, have always sought Arab unity, for which we raised slogans and offered sacrifices. We also stressed repeatedly that Jordan is the homeland of the immigrants [al-muhajirin] and the supporters [al-ansar: those who immigrated to Medina with Prophet Muhammad were called al- muhajirin and those who received him were called al-ansar] and we acted on the basis of this firm principle so that this country can remain the homeland of the one family—a country whose people enjoy full constitutional rights and where all people are equal before law and are committed to their national duty within the state of institutions and law.

Second, this homeland is the cradle of religious faiths and the birthplace of human civilization on this small planet. Hence, it must be a homeland in which human rights are respected and whose citizens should open to the entire world, displaying the good traits and high moral standards that they have inherited, and build bridges of trust among themselves and with others. They should seek to ensure common interests on the basis of mutual respect. These are crucial issues that require all those concerned to respect man's freedom and to ensure that he respects the freedom of others and demonstrates a keenness to safeguard it. This is because our cultural heritage, our awareness, and our faith in our message should make our homeland a center of enlightenment rather than a receptacle passively acquiring accomplishments, ideals, and political thought. This is necessary for a man to become an example to be emulated by all our brothers in all their countries and also for our future generations.

Third, the strength of countries is derived from that of their peoples. The strength of their peoples is derived from the excellence of their individuals and their organization in advanced systems. This helps the forces of these peoples to flow creatively and confidently in the ways of well being and sacrifice. When such a thing happens, these peoples become worthy and capable of shouldering their responsibilities and facing their destinies. It is high time for us to prove this, so that citizens can become cohesive, stand shoulder to shoulder, work hand in hand, and so that their hearts can beat in unison.

Fourth, throughout the past 38 years during which we have shouldered responsibility, I have never known myself, nor have you known me, as anything but a Hashemite Arab. Similarly, Jordan has never known me otherwise. Together, we have upheld the message of the Great Arab Revolt. Nothing has dwelled within my conscience other than my keenness to fulfill the nation's aspirations and the aspirations of Jordan and Palestine, our cause and our nation's first and dearest cause. I have never wanted anything for Jordan, nor have you wanted anything for it but to be strong-willed, self- reliant, and faithful in its God and message. In my position and stance, I have always been for all Arabs, just as this lofty and good people have been, as well as the professional, pure, and Muhammadan Arab Army, which has never engaged in the labyrinths of politics and that is immune to fragmentation and its diseases. A homeland marked by such traits is bound to be the most eager to epitomize the desired cohesiveness among the sons of its people and also among the sons of its nation. Certainly, no Arab unity can be achieved unless the complexes are removed, unless the Arab peoples exercise their rights to freedom and democracy, and unless they endorse timetables for starting the process of integration and unity and turning it into a reality.

Fifth, the best example we have in this regard is Europe, the scene of two world wars this century, not to mention the cold war. Europe overcame all this through awareness and eagerness to safeguard the interests of its peoples. Therefore, the great and small nations, and the wealthy and poor nations alike got together so that all would build the great European edifice after the chapters of blood, disputes, complexes, and grudges had been turned. We need this more than anybody else in the new world order that opposes incongruity of interests and has no mercy on division and separation.

Our brotherhood in this arena, immigrants and supporters, on the basis of our belonging to a single homeland and a single nation has made the Palestinian in this country immune from fears regarding the seizure of his freedom, dignity, nationality, and citizenship, which is the condition of the Palestinians of the occupied territories and in the diaspora, who are about to be stripped of everything and to be listed as mere names and figures in a single list called the list of the stateless, because of unjust policies. Had it not been for this brotherhood, in which we take pride and that we are eager to protect, we would have become, like others, without dignity, without honor, and without belonging, and even without the ability to stand together to face difficulties and to rely on God first and on ourselves second in building our country and in keeping our foreheads high with honor and pride.

Sixth, while following the course of events, successive serious world changes; our Jordanian, Palestinian, and Arab situation and its swift deterioration, let us demonstrate the self-confidence that gives us the courage to tell the truth and defend it. Let us not hide, like the panic-stricken and fainthearted person who hides behind a facade of patriotism and audacity, while an individual of our kinfolk in the occupied territories has chosen to stick to his land with his hands and teeth and to defend his rights on and in it. Such a Palestinian, in my opinion and according to the judgment of my conscience, is more patriotic and manlier than all others. With regard to us, we are for a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestine question. Our fear of God is stronger than our fear of his creatures. We seek his satisfaction and guidance. We do not like to shed blood. That is because we are a nation sent to spread well being, affection, and peace among all peoples of the globe. We are advocates

of a peace that will safeguard our rights and ensure a decent and free life for our future generations.

With regard to pillars and objectives:

A. In the domestic field: First, to work to secure the passage or amendment of the laws regarding the consummation of democracy and to embark on implementing political pluralism, including the law on publications and the law on licensing political parties in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the principles of the National Charter, our policy speech delivered to the National Congress after it endorsed the Charter, and the state's higher interests.

Second, we are confident in the awareness of all sectors of our people regarding the importance of their national unity. Besides, we have strong convictions that democracy is one of the most important pillars of national security. Yet, protecting the soundness of national unity requires extreme vigilance in monitoring the factors that harm it, inasmuch as it requires strictness and firmness in dealing with whoever attempts to undermine it, because national unity is not only the basis of our strength, construction, and our continued existence. It is also our means of regaining our historical rights to Arab Jerusalem, which are based on [Caliph] 'Umar's Covenant to which we adhere exactly as we adhere to our religion and holy sites.

Third, democracy is not merely its institutions. It is also a general approach and way of life. To consecrate it and enhance its concepts, all state institutions, be they governmental or private, should act to adapt themselves to it, in terms of thinking and behavior. What helps this is to start teaching courses on democracy, its rules, norms, and responsibilities as reflected in the Constitution, the National Charter, and its literature in the various relevant educational and cultural institutes and institutions.

Fourth, our national economy has managed to bypass the Gulf crisis and its consequences. This could be attributed to the improvement in economic performance during the first half of 1990. The Gulf crisis, however, caused efforts to implement the economic adjustment program to stumble. Consequently, investment retreated, government revenues and the balance of payments were affected negatively. Tackling domestic and foreign imbalances in our economy requires that they be given special priority when all other national economic policies are considered, as any healthy and sustained economic growth depends first and foremost on achieving tangible success in tackling the imbalance. It is necessary for the government to work to secure a suitable climate for increasing savings, production, and exports—something that will limit or end the migration of national capital outside the country and attract Jordanian capital from abroad. Hence, we believe that the government should pursue a policy to invigorate the national economy and resume growth along three basic axes:

1. Stopping the retreat in the real gross national product and achieving growth, with rates to be specified for each coming year. These rates should be an objective for all to work to achieve through increasing investment in production sectors, utilizing the available resources in production sectors, activating the untapped energies in our national economy, and overcoming any bottlenecks in support services.

2. Achieving internal and external balance by increasing national savings, reducing the rate of consumption of the gross national product, improving the state's general financial situation and the current account of the balance of payments, and increasing national exports, decreasing the growing rate of imports, and raising profits from the tourist sector and any other economic area in accordance with a plan studied for several years.

3. Distributing national income fairly to the various sectors of society with the purpose of limiting growing unemployment, poverty, and inflation by adopting financial, monetary, economic, and investment policies. Regarding development, it is appropriate to draw up a comprehensive, medium-term economic development plan, whose framework must be worked out now to achieve economic and social development based on the above three axes.

The plan should center on institutional development and providing the appropriate climate to activate the private sector and to attract local and international investment capital. As a result of the Gulf crisis, our country received a wave of about 200,000 returnees from the Gulf states. This placed an additional burden on our resources and economy. The government should draw up appropriate plans quickly to absorb and merge them into the national economic cycle so that they can stimulate the economy instead of being a burden on themselves and on it. Above all, they are our kinfolk and family, and we must take care of them, as they have for many decades constituted one of the resources of our economic revival, development, and the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories.

Fifth: Integrated social development is the umbrella, under which all developmental efforts and the programs and plans of development in the various sectors of Jordanian society should take place. The importance of social development in Jordan arises from the importance of the human elements that constitute the axis and goal of development at the same time, especially since the scarcity of economic resource in this country makes it incumbent on us to double our interest in qualifying our manpower and building industrial, services, and agricultural projects based on creativity, excellence, high technology, and administrative capabilities.

On this basis, it is necessary to concentrate on the social factor, which comprises many elements pertaining to integrated, comprehensive development, foremost of which is the mutual organic relationship between man on the one hand and land and national resources on the

other, and on identifying and dealing with pockets of poverty, opening up channels of communication and interaction between the citizen and the administration and services, and developing the tools and concepts of training manpower.

It is also important to institutionalize channels of communication and interaction between the citizen and officials in the administrative and services areas and in the public and private sectors by establishing a bureau to guide the steps of the citizen so that the social and economic institutions can meet the citizens' needs, acquaint themselves with their needs, and solve temporary and chronic problems in a civilized way and on the basis of a suitable mechanism of coordination and followup.

Sixth: The issue of providing food and water security is very important because of the scarcity of water in Jordan. This requires a firm agricultural policy and an enlightened, effective water policy. Here, I have to assure that a dry country with little rain desperately needs to increase forests and protect the existing forests and trees. Whatever the reason, we should not, under any circumstances, destroy our forests, while we are leading those who are interested in protecting the environment and who are committed to this policy on the national and international levels.

Seventh: The tourism sector is one of the most important economic and social sectors in Jordan. It clearly contributed to reinforcing the balance of payments and reducing the deficit in the Jordanian trade balance. In addition, tourism plays a prominent role to propagate Jordan's civilization, history, and culture and to gain friends for the homeland. Consequently, this sector should be developed to maintain it as a major resource of the national economy. This requires an integrated plan for this sector in which all concerned parties take part to create an appropriate tourism environment in terms of educating this generation on the importance of tourism, making the infrastructure available in most areas, developing training programs, encouraging investors, particularly foreigners, and intensifying the activities of tourism marketing.

In this regard, and because Jordan is a landlocked country, the national airline is our basic bridge to the world. Therefore, the Royal Jordanian Airline should be reinforced and transformed into a joint-stock company in which the government will have a share and Jordanian citizens and others will have another share. The Royal Jordanian Airline is not only a carrier, but a center for education, training, and advanced maintenance, a cultural site, and a channel of communications with the world and its nations in our region and throughout the globe.

Eighth: We are proud of the judiciary in Jordan, particularly its complete independence and the immunity of the court decisions. However, we want the judiciary to be cared for in light of its glorious history on one hand and our new needs on the other. Legal and judicial modernization has become an urgent need to face the new problems and issues imposed by the nature of life that did not exist when our laws were enacted in the past.

The existing linkage among the countries in the world calls for showing interest in Jordan's legal relationship with the International Court of Justice, Amnesty International, the various UN bodies, and any other regional or international organizations with which Jordan has relations or interests.

Trade is among the issues of concern to Jordan. Consequently, we believe there is a need to work to establish a trade court to tackle cases that arise between Jordanians at home and their counterparts abroad.

Since the judicial apparatus is responsible for running justice affairs, holding trials, and developing laws and legislation, it is time to take care of its personnel in terms of early training for judges and providing them with the necessary training before assuming their judiciary posts.

Ninth: God gave us a mind to use and to distinguish us from other creatures. Obstructing the mind and disregarding are disavowals of this divine blessing. One of the reasons for the growing gap between us and the more advanced, prosperous, and influential countries as well as the wealthier and stronger countries is the difference in using the mind and thought in facing problems and tackling them.

Consequently, the objective of an educational development program whose bases are being laid down now should encourage our sons to argue and think objectively, teach them how to analyze, and plant in them the capability to crystallize concepts. Teaching science in terms of quantity and quality should be given the appropriate concern. Today's world is a world of science and technology. A country with scarce resources must concentrate its efforts on teaching, training, and preparing its sons to become distinguished. This will compensate for natural resources. Our country cannot have the luxury of conventional teaching, which has been left behind by the modern age. Education policy is a national policy; it is the summary of the society's conformity. Nobody can deviate this policy from its course on the basis of personal and ideological interpretations.

Tenth: Higher education is an important link in the process of preparing distinguished citizens who are qualified for joining the state's economic life, which is linked with the society's needs, progress, and development. Higher studies are an important means to manage and conduct scientific research. Building the characters of university students involves various factors. Students must be dealt with in an integrated manner and in all mental, physical, spiritual, psychological, and social dimensions. An integrated building of the character of students is affected by two major factors, namely the academic factor and the university activity factor. The academic factor is dealt with in a distinguished manner by university departments and faculties through their

programs, laboratories, and workshops. As for the second factor—the university activity factor—it must be given the attention it deserves. Therefore, I urge every university to benefit from the numerous world experiences, such as the establishment of a university parliament in which the academic staff and students take part. Such a parliament discusses in a rational and objective manner basic public social, economic, and cultural issues, without any single group having the right to control others' views or thinking. Within such an institutionalized framework, cultural dialogue clubs can be established on the faculty level.

Eleventh: We are an Arab Muslim people, who take pride in their mission and heritage and cling to them. Our Arab-Islamic ethics teach us love, solidarity, and brotherhood, and prohibit the planting of grudges and sowing hatred, divisions, discord, and disharmony. Therefore, the various guidance platforms, such as mosques, schools, press, and other media, should comply with God's order that our arguments should be made with wisdom and beautiful preaching. Also, such platforms should comply with our genuine Arab ethics, which dislike abuses, fabrications, and mental and psychological terrorism, and refrain from instigating young people and pushing them to death [tahlukah] by dressing up suicide to them as martyrdom. By God, this is an unforgivable crime and has nothing to do with religion, responsibility, or morality.

Twelfth: Protecting the environment is not a luxury, but a national and human duty, in view of the environment's direct relationship with man's life, economy, progress, and survival. Therefore, environment must be given the priority it deserves in all the state's activities and must be made a component of our national culture.

B. In the Arab domain: The Arab reality resulting from the Gulf crisis can at least be described as painful. If Arab solidarity now is in a state of weakness and retreat, the principle of Arab solidarity remains for us here in Jordan and the majority of Arab peoples a living and sound principle, which must be stuck to and activated. Therefore, our Arab policy will continue to stem from this basic principle. We will do our utmost to cooperate with any Arab side seeking Arab reconciliation and changing this situation and seeking integrity so as to return to Arab solidarity, benefiting in that from our nation's bitter experience. We believe that the starting point should be activating the Arab League and its institutions in an atmosphere of cooperation and joint understanding that every one of us has no choice but to cooperate with others and that rapprochement and reconciliation are inevitable if any of our states, individually or collectively, are to live with dignity and sovereignty in our Arab land. The call for amending the Arab League Charter, benefiting from the lessons of the Gulf crisis, is now more logical than ever before, especially since the Arab nation is now standing at a turning point that requires revaluation, assessment, and a sound approach.

C. In the international field: Far-reaching changes in international relations and shifts in the centers of power have taken place. They have to be taken into account, especially since these changes are now being accompanied by new policies and trends compatible with them, which have begun to reflect on the management of bilateral ties and at various world organizations. We should adapt our concepts and foreign policy to render them beneficial to our interests in light of these changes and to open up to this world in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with the principle of mutual respect and give and take.

D. The Palestine question: The Palestine question has continued to be the focus of our preoccupation and attention. This will continue to be the case until the nightmare of the Israeli occupation of Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip is removed and also until the Palestinian people regain their right to self-determination on their national soil. We will continue to work with fraternal Arabs, particularly the Arab parties directly concerned, until international legitimacy is applied with regard to the Arab-Israeli dispute and we reach a comprehensive, just peace that would benefit all the peoples in the region. Based on this, we welcomed the recent political initiative that was committed to reaching a comprehensive solution based on the principle of land for peace and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Proceeding from this, we will also remain open to and cooperative with all international endeavors to resolve the dispute through peaceful means. Furthermore, we will continue our dialogue and diplomatic efforts with various influential governments and forces to implement international legitimacy with regard to the Palestine question.

As for the Armed Forces, the fence that defends the homeland, the apple of the eye, and the dearest one, efforts to care for them must be redoubled. And in our capacity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, we have actually ordered that the required studies be started to reorganize them so that quality and balance rather than quantity can be emphasized so they can become more professional and capable. This will include many things, including the removal of older generations of some weapons replacing them with modern weapons compatible with modern technology. Similarly, the various security agencies should be cared for and developed qualitatively so that they can perform their missions in line with the developments and complexities in society, particularly in the field of enhancing the democratic approach. Perhaps, one of the most important things accompanying democracy is the need for the people, all people, to abide by the law and to respect it rather than fear it, and also the need for the security agencies to protect this law. We are awaiting your nomination of the names of your colleague ministers. We affirm our absolute support for you, and our confidence in you. We wish you success in your task. We beseech God to grant us success and to inspire us with soundness and guidance, our dear one.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[dated] Amman, 7 Dhu al-Hijjah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 19 June 1991

Al-Masri's Reply to Letter of Designation

JN1906212891 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1737 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri's letter of reply to King Husayn's "letter of designation" in Amman on 19 June—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Your Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, God protect you. I had the honor to receive your royal letter of designation in which you entrusted me with the formation of the new Council of Ministers. While I express my deep pride in your precious royal confidence, which you have granted me at this critical state of Jordan's political life and its democratic march characterized by freedom, equality, and the supremacy of the law, I beg you to accept my sincerity and love. I beseech Almighty God to preserve Your Majesty as a leader and pioneer, to grant you His help and support, to grant us the ability to shoulder the responsibility you have assigned to me to serve dear Jordan.

The responsibility at this particular time places on us further burdens to meet the requirements of democracy after the endorsement of the National Charter. This stage is, in our view, not a normal or routine stage, or a continuation of previous ones, because the National Charter has opened up horizons for completing the establishment of the democratic constitutional institutions in accordance with regulations that are in harmony with Jordan's development and its efforts to build the foundations of a modern state on the basis of awareness, education, hard work, a comprehensive view of the homeland's circumstances and the nation's reality, and international changes.

Your Majesty, the honorable national principles, foundations, and goals contained in your royal letter of designation are the bases that we have the honor to take as our guide, primarily the emphasis on national unity—this homeland's lifeline and the mystery of its impregnability and its protective shield. The Jordanian people have proved their belief in this national unity, have relied on it through difficult crises, the latest being the Gulf crisis, and have also depended on it as they consolidated the foundations of their nation.

This government will preserve this unity, with the required vigilance, insistence, and determination to deal resolutely with any attempt to harm it. We will also cling to the fact that Jordan should continue to be a country in which human rights are respected and its people are open to the world; as a country that will continue its march in accordance with its heritage of positive traits and high moral standards and will try to secure its joint interest with mutual respect so that it can remain a center of enlightenment, an example of a state of institutions and law and of the power of the people derived from them as distinguished individuals in modern, advanced systems that provide wide horizons for creativity and innovation.

Having the honor to shoulder the responsibility you have charged me with, I and my colleagues affirm our concern to strive to complete building the components of the homeland's strength through self-reliance and standing alongside our brothers who are struggling for the nation's freedom, dignity, and unity; who reject fragmentation and displacement; and who are working to end grudges and disputes. Our homeland was a good example of fraternity on the basis of affiliation with the homeland and nation. We are proud of this and are trying to deepen it, drawing from Your Majesty's determination the capability to tell the truth and defend it. Hence, we seek a just peace that is based on the power of truth. We harbor no grudges and we stress the need to restore unity to Arab ranks after the Gulf crisis shook the pillars of Arab solidarity. The Gulf crisis undermined its entity and cracked its walls. Jordan and some of its brothers called for the need to resolve the crisis on the Arab level to keep away the specter of foreign interference and Arab internecine fighting. That position was not biased toward one party against another, but was dictated by a clear vision of the gravity of events and results.

As a result of this, Jordan endured many political and economic problems and was faithful to its people's national, deep sentiment on the soundness of the Jordanian position and sincere national feeling embodied by Your Majesty through your brave, honorable position from the first moment.

Therefore, we extend a hand with a spirit of sincerity to our Arab brethren, and urge them to consider building a new Arab order under which the Arab peoples would be able to exercise their rights to freedom and democracy, launch the process of integrity and unity, and seek to crystallize it in reality.

This will put solidarity back on the right path on bases that cannot be shaken by any crisis. The positive results of solidarity will benefit the Arab nation, which should assume its historical role in defending freedom, justice, and human dignity.

The Arab region is in the middle of international political moves aimed at achieving peace in the Middle East. And Jordan—in light of its history, position, and relationship with the land of Isra' [land to which Muhammad performed his night journey; reference to Palestine]—is a party to these moves. Jordan's participation in these moves aimed toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region is based on international legitimacy represented by the UN resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem.

In view of its faith in Arab solidarity, Jordan will endeavor to coordinate with Arab brethren regarding this political activity. Israel responds to these political moves with all intransigence, with seizing more Palestinian lands, with building settlements, and rejecting the international will and legitimacy. Jordan will also continue its efforts to remove the yoke of occupation from the occupied Palestinian territory until the Palestinian people restore their legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination so that a comprehensive and just peace is achieved in the Middle East and so that countries and nations will move toward construction.

We say to our brothers across the river that the bonds of kinship, blood, and the deep historical ties will continue to attract us to them and will reaffirm our determination to struggle to save them from occupation and injustice. Our stand by their side and our continuous readiness to support them with all means on the local, regional, and international levels will remain signs of these bonds that exist clear and pure deep within our consciences.

Your Majesty, in the domestic field, my government will adopt the concepts and ideas stipulated by the National Charter and included in the royal letter of designation, and the objectives you have set for national development in agriculture, the economy, tourism, and protection of the environment. Therefore, the government will first work to apply political pluralism through laws concerning the completion of the democratic course in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution guided by the National Charter and by your historic speech following the endorsement of the charter. In doing that, my government will seek to guarantee the higher national interest, entrench the pillars of democracy and develop its institutions on the basis of mutual respect and free, honorable competition, and will highlight the role of political groups so that they assume their responsibilities at this stage.

In the field of development, the principal challenge is how much we are able to advance firmly toward self-reliance. Hence the need to move toward an economy that depends on our domestic capabilities and to provide the proper atmosphere for correcting our economy's internal and external deficiency. Of course, self-reliance has a price and costs. Society must decide how these burdens will be distributed fairly among society's various sectors. Therefore, creative potential must be stimulated to move toward an economy based on self-reliance and on a coalition of the society's various sectors within the framework of commitment to maintaining national sovereignty. This coalition is responsible for demanding a higher level of productive effort by society in an appropriate atmosphere for fruitful action and the best exploitation of domestic potential. For this development coalition to be launched, it must take place in rural and urban areas alike. Among other things, it includes professional skills and creative potential in the public and private sectors.

Your Majesty, the principles, concepts, and directives included in the royal letter of designation and the principles and objectives it has set will constitute the bases for my government's program and its duties on the issues faced by Jordan, headed by the Palestine question and Arab solidarity and all that is related to domestic affairs, guided in that by Your Majesty's royal directives and while always seeking your continued support. We will exert every sincere and serious effort to translate these directives into policies and programs, and relying, after God, on our people's consciousness and unity. We will cooperate sincerely with the legislative authority to establish these principle and bases within the wide framework specified by the Constitution and supported by the charter.

I am honored to submit to Your Majesty the names of my fellow ministers. I hope that the royal decree will be honored by Your Majesty's signature.

May God preserve you and guide your steps, my glorified lord.

[dated] Amman, 7 Dhu al-Hijjah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 19 June 1991

Al-Masri Bases Plans on Letter of Designation

JN1906183091 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1801 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dhiyab] Mr. Prime Minister, what are the major features of the new government's working plan?

[Al-Masri] First, allow me to express my appreciation of the highly valued royal confidence in appointing me prime minister. God willing, this team will be a team of serious work to fulfill the ambitions and trends of the Jordanian people. Jordan and the region will experience a difficult period internally and externally. My colleagues and I will consult to lay down the broad lines of agreement. Certainly, the royal letter of designation will be the working plan of this cabinet on the basis of the ideas, plans, and ambitions it embodies that express the aspirations of the Jordanian people and government.

[Dhiyab] Thank you.

Royal Decree Names 25 Ministers Under Al-Masri

JN1906154091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jun 91

["Text" of a royal decree "accepting the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the formation of a new government under Tahir al-Masri" on 19 June—read by announcer]

[Text] We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, upon the resignation of Prime Minister Mudar

Badran, and taking cognizance of Article 35 of the Constitution, decree the following:

1. His Excellency Tahir al-Masri will be appointed prime minister and defense minister. And, upon recommendation of the prime minister:

2. Eng. 'Ali Suhaymat will be appointed deputy prime minister and transport and communications minister.

3. Eng. Ra'if Najm will be appointed awqaf and Islamic affairs minister.

4. Dr. 'Abdallah Nusur will be appointed foreign affairs minister.

5. Dr. 'Id Duhayyat will be appointed education minister.

6. Dr. Muhammad al-Hammuri will be appointed higher education minister.

7. Basil Jardanah will be appointed finance minister.

8. Dr. Ziyad Fariz will be appointed planning minister.

9. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will be appointed tourism and antiquities minister.

10. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi will be appointed minister of labor and minister of cabinet affairs.

11. Thabit al-Tahir will be appointed energy and mineral resources minister.

12. Dr. Khalid al-Karaki will be appointed information minister and culture minister.

13. Eng. Sa'd Hayil Surur will be appointed public works and housing minister.

14. 'Abd-al-Salam Furayhat will be appointed minister of state for parliamentary affairs.

15. Salim al-Zu'bi will be appointed municipal and rural affairs, and environment minister.

16. Dr. 'Awni al-Bashir will be appointed social development minister.

17. Eng. Samir Qa'war will be appointed water and irrigation minister.

18. Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah will be appointed minister of state for cabinet affairs.

19. Jamal Hadithah al-Khurayshah will be appointed minister of state.

20. Jawdat al-Subul will be appointed interior minister.

21. Taysir Kan'an will be appointed justice minister.

22. Dr. Subhi al-Qasim will be appointed agriculture minister.

23. Eng. 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib will be appointed industry and trade minister and supply minister.

24. Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi will be appointed health minister.

25. Eng. Salih Irshidat will be appointed youth minister.

Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and the ministers were sworn in before His Majesty King Husayn at the Royal Court this afternoon.

The swearing in ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Royal Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn, his excellency the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, his highness the chief chamberlain, his majesty the king's military secretary, and the secretary general of the Royal Court.

Further on Swearing In of Al-Masri Government

NC1906142491 Paris AFP in English 1408 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Amman, June 19 (AFP)—King Husayn swore in a new 25- member cabinet on Wednesday in which newcomers have key positions and Islamic fundamentalists take no part in protest against Jordan's Middle East policies, authoritative sources said.

The new government is headed by Tahir al-Masri, a 49-year-old career diplomat, who was named premier on Tuesday by King Husayn to replace Mudar Badran, who resigned for unspecified reasons.

In the absence of an official government list, reliable sources said that several newcomers, many of them members of parliament, were given key jobs in the new cabinet.

Eight ministers from the former administration also received portfolios.

Mr. al-Masri, the sources said, holds the Defense Ministry and appointed two deputy prime ministers to help him in his task.

One of them, MP 'Abdallah al-Nusur, is also the new foreign minister while the other deputy premier is 'Ali Suhaymat, the Amman mayor, who also becomes the new transport minister, the sources said.

But Islamic fundamentalists, who held six portfolios in the former administration, are absent because they reportedly object to Jordan's acceptance of U.S. Middle East peace moves.

Mr. al-Masri and five other members of the new government are of Palestinian origin, the sources added.

According to unofficial estimates, more than half of Jordan's population is Palestinian.

Muslim Brotherhood Refuses To Join New Government

JN1906132491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Our radio station has learned from a source close to Prime Minister-designate Tahir al-Masri that the Muslim Brotherhood has officially refused to participate in the government he is seeking to form within the next 24 hours. Identical sources attributed this refusal to two reasons; the first is political, and the second is related to the distribution of ministerial portfolios where they will not get their demands, especially the portfolio of education.

The Muslim Brotherhood demanded that the new government take a rigid position on the peace efforts identical with their proclamation published recently in local papers, which rejects making concessions on any inch of the land of Palestine. This proclamation, which was signed by Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, Muslim Brotherhood general controller, stationed in Egypt, called for Islamic jihad to liberate Palestine from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea.

Political circles saw in this proclamation—issued outside the country—a flagrant intervention in Jordanian internal affairs. They saw that it would have been more appropriate to publish it where it was issued, in Cairo. Within this context, Jordanian official sources stressed that the Kingdom will not renege on its principle position, which calls for exchanging land for peace and for implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the territories occupied in 1967.

Our radio station has learned that less than half of the al-Masri government will be parliamentary representatives, of which two are independent Islamists. The majority of the government members will be new faces compatible with the times. Al-Masri might keep the foreign and defense portfolios; the latter is usually held by the prime minister. If he keeps both portfolios, he will be the first prime minister to do so since 1979.

Dallul Comments on Talks With Palestinians

NC1906172691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Minister Muhsin Dallul and Major General Nabih Farhat, chief of the state security service, have held a series of talks with influential figures and Palestinian leaders in Sidon on the Lebanese Army's deployment.

Minister Dallul and Gen. Farhat first met with Mustafa Sa'd and Usamah Sa'd. At 1630 they were joined by a Palestinian delegation consisting of Zayd Wahbah, Salah Salah, Salih Zaydan, and Kamal Midhat.

Minister Dallul said that a in-depth discussion of the Army deployment took place in a positive atmosphere. He added: Ultimately, we will satisfy the citizens' aspirations. Certain details need to be pursued, but there is good reason for optimism.

He said his contacts with the Palestinians were very positive. As for the situation in Kafr Falus, he said everything will be explained in due course. He added that the Nasirite Population Organization's [NPO] militia will be included in the assimilation process. Replying to a question, he said: We will visit Damascus. We are ready to continue our contacts to fulfill our mission.

[NPO leader] Engineer Mustafa Sa'd said he supports the Lebanese Army's deployment throughout all Lebanese territory and that contacts will be resumed to settle all questions, noting that there are no obstacles worth mentioning.

Sa'd had earlier met with delegations from Fatah and the Islamic Group to discuss developments in the south.

Dallul Terms Talks 'Positive;' Army To Deploy

NC2006092991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The success of the talks held with the Palestinians and influential figures in Sidon confirmed that the second phase of the Army's deployment in the south will be implemented on 1 July as scheduled. [passage omitted]

These talks, held by Minister Muhsin Dallul and Staff Major General Nabih Farhat, director general of state security, have achieved very positive results in that there will be no obstacles to the deployment process. [passage omitted]

After he and Maj. Gen. Farhat met with Nasirite Popular Organization Leader Mustafa Sa'd and the PLO Higher Command yesterday, Minister Dallul said that the meeting was positive, and that the Army will deploy on 1 July. He did not give any details but denied that the Palestianians have any conditions regarding the deployment process. He said: There are views on some social, political, and informational issues that we are considering.

Sa'd said that there are no obstacles to the Army's deployment and that he has responded positively and made no conditions regarding Army control of the Kafr Falus front lines. [passage omitted]

A meeting was held in Sa'd's house that was attended by representatives of the nationalist and Islamic parties and forces, who were briefed on the results of the other meetings and the positions that were presented by Dallul and adopted by Sa'd.

There was complete agreement with Sa'd on facilitating the Army's deployment, its date, and its inclusion of the Kafr Falus front. It was also agreed to guarantee the right of the resistance against occupation, provided that its forces have no fixed positions. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegate Views Meeting With Dallul

NC1906175091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul, accompanied by Major General Nabih Farhat and Colonel 'Ali Makki, met today with Engineer Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO]. The meeting was also attended by Usamah Sa'd, NPO deputy leader, and Abu-Darwish Sukayni, commander of the Popular Liberation Army. [passage omitted]

After a short recess, Minister Dallul next met with a delegation from the PLO command at Eng. Mustafa Sa'd's home and in his presence. The PLO delegation consisted of Salah Salah, Zayd Wahbah, Kamal Midhat, and Salih Zaydan.

Speaking after the meeting, Salah said a positive atmosphere had prevailed. He added: It is natural that we will respond positively to the deployment process, provided certain points are considered. These points concern the security of the camps and the need to avoid any friction between the Lebanese Army and the Palestinian resistance. He added: We discussed all aspects of the Palestinian presence, including the Palestinians' political, social, struggle, and civil rights, security arrangements for the camps, their military presence, and ways of reaching an understanding on organizing the confrontation with the Israeli occupiers.

Regarding the start of an official Palestinian-Lebanese dialogue, Salah said: We received an initial reply stressing that a high-level Palestinian-Lebanese dialogue on all matters will be held. He noted that the contacts with Minister Dallul will resume after 'Id al-Adha [22-25 June].

Palestinian Source on Lebanon, Armed Presence

NC2006105991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] AL-DIYAR cites an official Palestinian source in Tunis as saying that Lebanese-Palestinian relations must be dealt with on two bases: first, the normalization of

relations between the legitimate Lebanese authorities and the PLO accompanied by a thorough examination of these relations in a clear and frank atmosphere; and, second, an agreement on opening a Palestinian embassy in Beirut.

The source said that the security of Palestinian camps in the south must taken seriously considering the Palestinians' past bitter experiences in Lebanon, such as the Sabra and Shatila massacres. The source said that even if the disarmament of the Lebanese militias gives our people security in the camps and eliminates the peril of clashes with Lebanese forces, it must be remembered that the Israeli Army is very close to the Sidon and Tyre camps and remains a permanent source of danger to the Palestinians there.

The source told AL-DIYAR that the PLO recognizes and supports the Lebanese Government's right to establish its authority over all of Lebanon and to collect the militia's weapons. The source added, however, that the PLO believes the armed Palestinian presence cannot be treated in the same manner as the Lebanese militias because it is not part of the internal Lebanese conflict, as it existed before the Lebanese civil war began and is linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Resistance Front Claims Attack on SLA

NC1906110591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front has claimed responsibility for an operation carried out against the South Lebanese Army [SLA] at dawn today, which resulted in SLA casualties.

In a statement issued in Sidon, the front announced that one of its groups attacked an SLA position in Anan in the Jazzin area with light-caliber weapons and rockets for 15 minutes. Following the attack, the SLA shelled the Popular Liberation Army's positions on the Kafr Falus front for five hours.

As of noon today, neither the SLA media nor independent security sources have confirmed the attack.

SLA Bombards Al-Biqa'; Clashes in South

NC1906125491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Citing security sources in Rashayya, REUTER has reported that Israeli and South Lebanese Army artillery fired approximately 45 shells over three hours at the areas of Maydun, 'Ayn al-Tinah, and the Jabbur hills in western al-Biqa' early this morning, damaging property. The source said that the bombardment was accompanied by heavy machine-gun fire and flares.

[(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 1130 GMT on 19 Jun reports: "Intermittent clashes took place this morning between the Popular Liberation Army-Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces and the Lahd militia positions on Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines."]

Army Raids Village, Confiscates Weapons

NC1906131991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Statement issued by the National Defense Ministry Information Department; date not given]

[Text] In the wake of armed clashes in Sharun in 'Alayh district the night before last that left a number of casualties, and in view of reports that these clashes may happen again, an army force surrounded the village early this morning. The force launched a sweep and thorough search of homes, which was completed without any incidents worth mentioning.

A large amount of weapons and ammuntion was confiscated and the village was cleansed of weapons and ammunition.

Pursuant to the statement released by the National Defense Ministry Information Deparment today on the entry of the Lebanese Army into Sharon and containing the security incidents that occurred in the village and as a result of the sweep, 350 Kalashnikof machine guns and 70 RPG's [rocket-propelled grenades] were confiscated.

Israeli Vehicles, Overflights Reported in South

NC1906192691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] According to security sources, Israeli vehicles were seen assembling in al-Shumariyah, 'Alman, al-Bayyadah, al-Hamra', and al-Tayyibah in southern Lebanon early this morning. The concentrations were accompanied by overflights by Israeli enemy aircraft.

Afghanistan

Babrak Karmal To Return From USSR

BK2006062691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Kabul, June 20 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah said Thursday former President Babrak Karmal was likely to return here from the Soviet Union, but that he would not play a prominent role in the ruling Watan (homeland) Party.

"He will return to the country as an ordinary citizen exercising his legal and human right. There is no political consideration involved," Mr. Najibullah said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE- PRESSE.

Official sources said the former president was expected in Kabul any time, after Mr. Najibullah had told an extraordinary session of the Watan Party last week that he was free to return to the country as an ordinary citizen.

Mr. Karmal became president after the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 but left for Moscow, ostensibly for health reasons, when he was replaced by Mr. Najibullah in 1986.

Considered a party hardliner, he was reported to have had a tense relationship with Mr. Najibullah while in office.

Asked about their present relationship, Mr. Najibullah quipped, "we have tenser relations with the opposition (mujahidin) but we are moving towards reconciliation."

Former prime minister Sultan Ali Keshtmand, also viewed as a party hardliner, returned from Moscow last week to attend the party session.

Mr. Keshtmand is a member of the party politburo while Mr. Karmal is a member of the central council in the Watan Party.

It would be the first time he has returned from Moscow since 1986.

Diplomats here believe the presence of both top pro-Moscow Afghans will strengthen the the hand of the hardline faction within the party.

Babrak Karmal Returns

BK2006105691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Kabul, June 20 (AFP)—Former Afghan President Babrak Karmal returned home Thursday from the Soviet Union, where he has been staying for the past five years, informed sources said here.

The sources said that Mr. Karmal arrived secretly by air in the morning amid tight security at Kabul International Airport.

Foreign Ministry officials could not immediately be contacted for comment, but Afghan President Najibullah had told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE earlier Thursday Mr. Karmal's return was likely.

No further details of Mr. Karmal's quiet return were immediately available, but diplomats here speculated that it could mark the return of more members of the hardline faction of the party, which has its main base in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Karmal who took over as president when Soviet troops invaded the country in 1979, is a known party hardliner who had uneasy relations with Mr. Najibullah, a moderate, who replaced him in 1986.

Mr. Najibullah said in an interview earlier that Mr. Karmal was free to return, but he would not play a prominent role in the ruling Watan (Homeland) Party.

"He will return to the country as an ordinary citizen exercising his legal and human right. There is no political consideration involved," he said.

Asked about their strained relations in the past, the president quipped: "We have tenser relations with the opposition (mujahidin fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul), but we are moving towards reconciliation."

Mujahidin Intensify Operations in Ghowr Province

BK2006085691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between Mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in various parts of the country. The Mujahidin intensified their operations in the Ghowr Province, (?completing) the control of the provincial headquarters of Chaghcharan and the subdivisional town of Shahrak on the road leading toward Herat. They also attacked the security post in Shahrak Town and killed several Kabul regime troops.

India

Continuing Reportage on General Elections

Commission Stops Counting in Bihar

BK1806153091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] The Election Commission has declared the announcement of the result in Aurangabad Lok Sabha seat in Bihar as null and void. It has also directed to stop counting in four other Parliamentary seats in the state. The deputy election commissioner, Mr. D.S. Bagga, told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the returning officer of the Aurangabad constituency announced the results violating the commission's orders. The Election Commission has instructed the Bihar government to change the returning officer and name a new officer

under whom the counting process should be completed. The commission has also directed the returning officers of Monghyr and Begusarai Lok Sabha constituencies not to go ahead with the counting and announcement of results. Mr. Bagga said the clarifications received from the returning officers on certain queries were found inconsistent and incomplete. Mr. Bagga said the commission has also sent similar instructions not to go ahead with counting and announcement of results in the case of Sasaram and Bikramganj parliamentary constituencies. He said there are complaints that the retuning officer opened electoral records unauthorizedly before the counting date.

The Election Commission has also withheld the announcement of results in Banka, Madhubani, Darbhanga, and Saharsa Lok Sabha seats in Bihar following reports of irregularities at the time of polling. The deputy election commissioner said the Election Commission has also ordered the immediate transfer of the returning officer of Devangere Lok Sabha seat in Karnataka, who had announced the results in spite of an embargo from the commission. A probe is on in certain complaints received from political parties on poll-related irregularities in the Kannauj Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad and Bapatla Parliamentary seats in Andhra Pradesh.

More Forces Sent to Punjab

BK1906155891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] In Punjab, 270 additional companies of paramilitary forces have been inducted till this evening to ensure a smooth conduct of the poll in the state on Saturday. Three hundred and forty-three companies of paramilitary forces were earlier deployed in the state. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, 30 more companies are expected to reach the state by tonight or tomorrow. Over 125,000 police and paramilitary personnel will be on duty in the state during 22 June election.

Congress-I Secures 233 Seats

BK2006035491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] With only 13 results to come in the Congress-I and its allies have secured 233 seats, 23 short of an absolute majority. Here is the latest Lok Sabha tally: Total seats: 543 Elections held: 511 Results declared: 498 Congress-I: 222 Bharatiya Janata Party: 118 Janata Dal: 51 Communist Party of India-Marxist: 35 Communist Party of India: 13 Samajwadi Janata Party: 5 Bahujan Samaj Party: one others: 53

Congress-I Wins Majority in Assam

BK2006041291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The Congress-I has staged to comeback in Assam securing an absolute majority in the state assembly. The party has already bagged 64 seats in the 126-member assembly. Eleven results are yet to come in. The Asom Gana Parishad [AGP] whic was in power before the imposition of the president's rule and its breakaway faction the NAGP [New Asom Gana Parishad] has been routed. While the AGP has secured 15 seats, the NAGP could managed just one.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has made inroads in Assam capturing 10 seats. The CPI [Communist Party of India] and the ASDC [Autonomous State Demand Committee] have bagged four seats each. CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] got only one seat. Fourteen seats have gone to independents. The former chief minister, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, has been elected from one constituency but was defeated from the other.

Parties Plan for Postelection Stragety

Party To Elect Leader

BK1906075691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Hectic parleys are continuing in the capital among various political parties and leaders for the formation of new government at the center.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, says that efforts are continuing to build up the consensus to elect the party's parliamentary leader. Participating in a program on Doordarshan [Television] last night, he said the question of leadership will be decided in a couple of days. He said his party will consider seeking support from other parties only after formation of a Congress-I government at the center. He said the effort will be to get a dependable support on the basis of policies and programs.

The Political Affairs Committee of the Janata Dal is continuing its deliberations in New Delhi today to take stock of the post-poll situation. It will also assess the options available before the party.

The Central Election Committee of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] is meeting in New Delhi this afternoon to assess the post-election scenario. This will be followed by the national executive meeting tomorrow. Senior party leaders have already indicated that they will prefer to sit in the opposition.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. M. Farooqi, says his party will adopt a positive attitude toward the Congress-I which, he said, is alone entitled to form the government at the center. Speaking to our correspondent this morning, he said the Congress-I should take the initiative to discuss the main issues confronting the country with other parties from which it would like to seek support to form the government. The Central Secretariat and the Central Executive of the CPI are meeting in New Delhi this afternoon to consider the post-poll scenario. This will be followed by a two-day meeting of the National Executive.

Janata Dal To Sit in Opposition

BK1906125091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The National Front is meeting in New Delhi to discuss the Front's strategy in the new Parliament. The meeting was postponed to the evening as the chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao's, arrival from Hyderabad was delayed.

Meanwhile, the Janata Dal [National Front's main component] has formulated its stand in the post-poll scenario which, it says, may be modulated in the light of interaction with the National Front partners and the Left allies. Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said the Political Affairs Committee at its meeting yesterday and today had extensive discussions on the party's role in a hung Parliament situation. He said there were differences in perception during the discussions, but emphasized that they related more to nuances than to any substance. Mr. Reddy refused to disclose the party's stand, but said the mandate was for the party to sit in the opposition.

The crucial issue of the Congress-I leadership still remains to be decided. The party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, today continue to maintain that the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP] will elect its own leader when it meets in the capital. The Congress-I Parliamentary Board is likely to meet this evening to fix the date and timing of the CPP meeting. Mr. Mukherji also said that the modalities of election of the leader will be determined by the parliamentary party itself.

Rao To Become Congress-I Leader

BK2006075091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0755 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The decks have been cleared for the unanimous choice of Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao as the leader of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party with Mr. Sharad Pawar today appealing to all CPP [Congress Parliamentary Party] members to support Mr. Rao. Just hours before the scheduled meeting of the CPP to elect its leader, Mr. Pawar issued a statement calling for a unanimous decision. The Maharashtra chief minister's appeal came while senior leaders—Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray and Mr. Karunakaran—were ascertaining the views of the members of the CPP on the leadership issue.

National Front To Sit in Opposition

BK2006095891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The National Front-Left combine have decided to sit in the opposition at present and extend constructive issue-based support. The decision was taken at the Coordination Committee meeting of the combine this morning. The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, said the question of supporting the government did not arise as the Congress-I had not approached the parties for support.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, said their mandate was to sit in the opposition. Mr. Surjeet said the final strategy of the National Front-Left would be decided only after the CPI-M politburo—which is meeting today—and the Central Committee completed their discussions. The CPI [Communist Party of India] national executive was also meeting to consider the decision.

The Bihar chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, has rejected any compromise formula with the Congress-I in forming a government at the center. He told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in New Delhi today that the Janata Dal will respect the people's verdict by discharging its role as an effective opposition in Parliament. He said a general consensus has been arrived at among the leaders of the National Front and Left party alliance to accelerate a mass movement at the national level for social justice and against exploitation. He said the prime task before the alliance is to ventilate the real issues facing the nation for the time-bound remedial actions to achieve the real socioeconomic transformation.

Parties Consult on Forming Central Government

BK1906161991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] With only 17 Lok Sabha results awaited, the Congress-I continues to be a single largest party in the 10th Lok Sabha to be constituted tomorrow. The party has secured 220 seats, but it requires 36 more seats for a majority and to form a new government at the center. Intense speculations and consultations are among major political parties, their allies and combines in respect of forming a new government at the center. However, the crucial issue of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP] leadership and the support that it might seek from other political parties to form the government is still open. The party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, still maintains that as in the past it is the Congress-I MP's who will elect the leader of the parliamentary party. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the modalities for electing a new leader will also be decided by the CPP itself. Mr. Mukherji said that Congress-I Central Parliamentary Board is likely to meet this evening to fix the date and time for the crucial CPP meeting. In reply to a question, Mr. Mukherji said the Congress-I Parliamentary Party can choose as its leader someone who is not a member of Parliament.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, today held a series of meetings with senior Congress-I leaders and newly elected members of Parliament. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, also had a meeting with Mr. Rao. Meanwhile, the Indian Youth Congress and the NSUI—the youth and the students organizations of the party—have called for a consensus choice of the leader of the parliamentary party. Senior

Congress-I leader Mr. Vasant Sathe in a statement suggested that it would be in the fitness of things to elect a leader from the region from where majority of the party MP's have been elected.

The National Front has formulated a tentative strategy for the new Parliament and is to finalize it after discussions with the Left allies tomorrow. Emerging after the presidium meeting in New Delhi this evening, the Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, said the Front-led combine will stay together. While declining to outline strategy, the Front convenor, Mr. V.P. Singh, in a cryptic remark, said the people have mandated them to sit in the opposition. Approached by newsmen, the National Front spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said there are no differences among the Front partners and that there is full identity of views. He also said informal discussions have been held with the Left Parties and the combine will meet formally tomorrow to take a collective step. Besides the Janata Dal chief, Mr. S.R. Bommai, those who attended the meeting include Mr. Biju Patnaik, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadev, Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. Murasoli Maran of the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham].

More on Parties Meeting To Form Government

BK2006051491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The Congress-I Parliamentary Party is meeting in New Delhi this afternoon to elect its leader. This was announced by the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, after the meeting of the Congress-I Parliamentary Board [CPB] late last night. He said it will decide that the senior leaders, Mr. K. Karunakaran, and Mr. S.S. Roy, will meet the party MPs to evolve a consensus on the leadership issue. The CPB's meeting was presided over by the Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. The Maharshtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and Mr. Arjun Singh, were among those who attended the meeting. Mr. Narasimha Rao also held a series of meetings with senior party leaders and the newly elected MPs yesterday. Mr. Pawar also met Mr. Rao.

Responding to newsmen's queries as to whether the crucial issue of leadership will be decided through a secret ballot or a consensus, the party spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, said that the Parliamentary Party will itself decide the modalities of electing its leader. He said the party can choose its leader, someone who is not a member of Parliament. Mr. Mukherji reiterated that seeking political support from other parties will only be considered after election of a leader and stacking out the claim to form a government. Asked about the reported demand by a section of Congress-I MPs that a democratic process of elections should be adopted while choosing a leader, Mr. Mukherji said the MPs were just expressing their views.

Two More Arrested in Gandhi Assassination Case

BK1906160491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The special investigation team probing the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi arrested two more persons today and produced them before the court. One of them, (Robert Paes), is reported to have given shelter to one of the prime suspects in the case. The chief judicial magistrate, Chingleput, remanded them to police custody till the 12th of next month.

BJP Not To Budge on Disputed Ayodhya Shrine Issue

BK2006043491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said his party will not give up its stand on Ram Mandir [disputed shrine issue] but is ready to cooperate in tackling national issues like terrorism and economic crisis.

Iran

Saudi Government Thanked for Hajj Cooperation

LD1906131491 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran respects its agreements with Saudi Arabia more than ever now, First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said here today.

Besharati in a meeting with Saudi Charge d'Affaires Badr Uthman Bakish expressed satisfaction with the Saudi Government's cooperation on holding of the 'Disawoval of Pagans' ceremony in Mecca Tuesday 18 June], and called for expansion of Tehran-Riyadh economic and trade cooperation.

Bakish in response referred to attempts by "some foreign elements" to sow discord between Iran and Saudi Arabia during the ceremony, but was happy that no incident occurred thanks to the vigilance of the officials of the two countries. "This will further help promotion of mutual ties in the future," he remarked.

Tehran Ceremony for Martyrs of 'Mecca Tragedy'

LD1906185391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Ceremonies honoring the memory of the martyrs of the Mecca tragedy were held by the Islamic revolution's Martyrs Foundation at the Ark Mosque in Tehran this evening. At the ceremonies, in which Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majlis; Mr. Khatami, minister of Islamic culture and guidance; and a number of Islamic Consultative Majlis representatives were present, the status of martyrs—who were martyred at the Abrahamite hajj ritual and the Disavowal of the

Infidels demonstrations held on 6 Dhi al-Hijja of the year 66 in Mecca—was honored. The participants in the ceremonies chanted slogans, renewing their allegiance with the blood of those martyred at the bloody tragedy of Mecca, stressed the performance of the Abrahamite hajj as one of the indisputable elements of pure Muhammadan Islam, and termed it a means of defeating plots hatched by America in the region and in the world of Islam.

At those ceremonies, Mr. Mohtashami, the representative of the people of Tehran at the Islamic Consultative Majlis, made remarks offering his condolences on the martyrdom at the bloody Mecca tragedy to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, and the Islamic ummah. He elaborated on the philosophy of Disavowal of the Infidels and said: As the imam of the ummah used to stress in his messages and guidance, and today also the leader of the Islamic revolution insists on its exact implementation, the true hajj is the hajj intertwined with disavowal of the infidels, abstention of dependencies, and struggle against global arrogance.

Cabinet Praises Hajj Ceremonies, Reviews Economy

NC2006075491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The cabinet met yesterday afternoon after receiving information on the superb Disavowal of Infidels ceremonies which were held outside the Islamic Revolution leader's mission in holy Mecca by over 100,000 pilgrims to the house of God. While paying tribute to the cherished martyrs of the last hajj attended by Iranians and expressing sympathy to their families, the cabinet indicated it was satisfied that this important obligation of the Abrahamite hajj had been performed in the desired fashion.

The cabinet recalled the leader's wise message which highlighted the key issues of the great Islamic ummah. The cabinet also expressed the hope that the the leader of the Islamic Revolution's guidance would be heeded and implemented.

The Central Bank governor presented the monthly report on the country's non-oil exports for the month of Farvardin [21 March-20 April] and noted that the export of ten commodities increased by 115 percent compared to those of the corresponding period last year.

The interior minister and presidential deputy, Mr. Nuri, presented a report on reconstruction work in the earthquake-stricken areas of Zanjan and Gilan at agricultural, industrial, and other fundamental installations. He expressed the hope that, after the problems with the rial's foreign exchange rate are solved, the supply of construction material and loans will be expedited and permanent housing will be completed with the necessary speed. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Delivers Second Hajj Message

LD1906144891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0954 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Second of three installments of message by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to hajj pilgrims on 18 June, the day of the "Disavowal of the Infidels"—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] If we take a look at the cultural, social, economic, and military situation in Muslim countries today, observe their spiritual and material weakness, and scrutinize their military regimes and the conditions of the governments in most of those countries, in which everything points to a feeling of degradation and weakness, it would reveal that one of the most significant causes of this situation is that those countries and nations have forsaken and forgotten their historical pasts and the greatness and glory that could travel through the centuries and motivate and invoke optimistic effort in any weak and despondent person. [passage omitted]

Today, Mecca and Medina are a base for divine inspiration and a receptacle for God's blessings bestowed on the pious and resisting masses who, with faith in and acting upon divine gospels, were able to rise from the contemptible state they were in, attain the liberty worthy of man, raise the banner of the salvation of mankind and the release of humanity from the domination of bullying and wealthy empires of those days, create the great base of human knowledge through the light of wisdom shining from the Koran, sit on the lofty podium of human knowledge and wisdom for centuries, generously teach all humanity, create the most valuable scientific relics in many centuries, and paint the fate of the world of humanity with their knowledge, statesmanship, and culture. [passage omitted]

All that we have said shows why colonialists of yesteryear and present-day leaders of world arrogance are so afraid of and fight against the spiritual and sentimental bond between the Muslims and their past. Yes, it is this bond with the past that determines the present and future. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran, and the declaration that the Iranian nation intends to create a society based on Islamic values and realize Islamic laws in it, the wave of propaganda of the mouthpieces of the East and West and their puppets poured on the Islamic Republic, attacking it and accusing it of being fundamentalist, reactionary, regressive, and so forth. And, under the pretext of progressiveness, they have criticized Islamic Iran for wanting to be faithful to past traditions.

This is while reactionary and dictatorial regimes dependent on rotten traditions and without the slightest inkling of the new meanings of life, such as freedom, democracy, and human rights, whose numbers are not too few in the East or the West, have never been subjected to propaganda warfare under those pretexts.

The lesson to learn here is that the radios of regimes in which there is not the slightest sign of the most basic principles of political progressiveness, and in which things like national assemblies and free elections and private newspapers are a myth, have called reactionary a country in which, on the basis of Islam, there is a popular government and Islamic laws are approved in a legislature comprising representatives of the people and executed by a government chosen by the people, and the people are actively involved in its most sensitive issues, making intelligent people in the world laugh with their ridiculous copycat behavior.

Yes, arrogance and its propaganda bandwagon and puppet blowhorns and writers are not only concerned that a country is in the depths of old-fashioned ideas and engulfed in its ignorant traditions, as long as its coffers are open to them and it yields to their greed and domination and accepts their culture of corruption, prostitution, consumerism, drinking, and licentiousness, but are also very happy about it. [passage omitted]

The Muslims, and in particular their ulema, intellectuals, and vanguards, especially in those societies where the breeze of freedom and uprising for the sake of God has blown, should be careful not to fall into this trap. They should not be afraid of being called fundamentalists. They should not be upset with the calumny of being refered to as reactionaries and traditionalists. They should not abandon their Islamic principles, the bright instructions of Islam, and the realization of establishing a religious society and a monotheistic system, just to please the sinister and calculating enemies. [passage omitted]

Another important issue that the pilgrims of God's house should note as an objective of the hajj is the important current problems of the Islamic world. If the hajj is the great annual congress of the world's Muslims, no doubt the most urgent agenda of this congress is the current problems of the Muslims in any part of the world. Arrogant propaganda deals with these problems in a manner as to deprive the world Muslims from any lesson, experience, and hope and also to prevent the exposure of criminals and the revelation of facts, if ill intentions and the foul play of arrogance have contributed to those problems. Or, they refuse to raise these problems altogether. Hajj is the venue where this propaganda treachery should be exposed and the truth revealed. It is a place which should prepare the ground for general awareness of the Muslims.

At this point I draw the attention of the Muslim brothers and sisters to a list of the important events of the world of Islam:

Today's most important issue is the issue of Palestine, which has remained the main problem of the Islamic world, or perhaps the main problem of humanity, in the recent half century. This is the problem of a nation's suffering, homelessness, and oppression. The issue is that of usurping a country and creating a tumor-like growth in the heart of the Islamic countries, where the East and the West of the Islamic world converge. This is the place where two successive generations of the Muslim nation of Palestine have suffered under relentless tyranny. Now that the bloody uprising of Islam, which is relying on the people's masses, is warning the occupiers—who have no conscience and are alien to humanity—the enemies' tricks have become more complex than before. Muslims all over the world should, therefore, take the problems more seriously and think of something. And this is the fresh news for today.

Now the chaotic situation in the world of Islam, and the ever-increasing dependence of the countries of the region on the United States' unleashed power, have brought about suitable conditions for the usurper state to mount a spiteful onslaught. Relying on the support of the Great Satan, which can rightly be described as the most dangerous enemy of Islam and the Muslims, it is openly following designs, designs which it has never really tried to conceal. The following are a catalogue of the open policies and practices of anti-human Zionists: the transfer of Soviet Jews—which is part of the price the West is paying in assisting the former superpower—as well as the transfer of Ethiopian Falashas, who are to serve Palestine's American and European Zionist usurpers, and also the recent transfer of Indian Jews, together with the building of settlements on the parts of Palestine which have recently been usurped—and possibly even in occupied parts of Lebanon—and also the expansion of its military hardware and weapons of mass destruction—at a time when the United States is pretending to call for sanctions against exports of such weapons to the Middle East. And to these must be added its daily and periodic air attacks on South Lebanon, the bombing of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, ever-increasing oppression imposed on Arab Palestinian citizens who are the real owners of that territory, and enforcement of the most criminal methods of confrontation with the people. Meanwhile, on the political scene it increasingly and steadily toughens its stand as the Arab governments and PLO yield ground to it and as some Arab politicians show their weakness in a miserable way. It rejects even the notion of setting up an international or regional conference; it rejects any such suggestion by resorting to various pretexts. Finally, it openly and decisively rejects the proposal to set up a Palestinian government in a corner of the Palestine territories, a proposal which is a result of the abject surrender and total misery of the Palestinian parties.

Most definitely, as well as these open designs it is busy carrying out covert activities to hatch plots, to carry out acts of terrorism and abduction, and to wage psychological warfare. These are crimes which can only be expected of the Zionists and their allies.

Global arrogance and colonialist governments from the beginning until today have created the usurper regime of Israel and invested in it as an instrument to bring pressure to bear on the Arabs and on the Islamic governments of the region. They also intend to hold this

poisoned dagger with which they have stabbed the world of Islam in the side. Today the arch-Satan is holding the leash of this trained dog in its hands. It is therefore hardly surprising that repeated violations of international laws, repeated violations of human rights in the most atrocious forms, repeated aggressions against neighbor countries, blatant resort to terrorist activities and kidnappings, the daily increasing preparation of atomic weapons and such deeds, if committed by any of the countries in the world which do not have a master-slave relationship with the United States and with other big powers, are termed massive events; whereas, if committed by the Zionists, they become acceptable and give rise to no serious protest by arrogance's world network, especially not by the arch-Satan. In this respect, the usurper Zionist government has today turned into the biggest danger for the present and future world of Islam. And it is up to the Muslims to think of remedies and solutions so as to remove this danger and this massive oppression.

Unfortunately, the preachings and practices of most heads of Islamic states do not show any sign of their resolve to remedy this great danger which is nothing more than the elimination of the Zionist, racist regime. On the contrary, there are signs of the extension of Camp David and the completion of al-Sadat's treachery in some Arab states. And I do not know what kind of replies these governments, with their degrading behavior and disgraceful surrender to this nasty enemy of Muslims and Arabs, have prepared to give to their nations and to place before God.

The true remedy for this danger lies in the hands of Muslims. They are the ones who can truly help Muslim strugglers, turning stronger and crushing the uprising inside Palestine. [sentence as heard] And they can also, in various ways, prevent the governments of the region from following the demands and impositions of the United States and submitting to compromise with Israel. The brave and self-sacrificing actions of the proud Muslims of Lebanon who have repeatedly forced the bullying Zionists and their supporters into weak and passive positions, are clear evidence of the fact that devoted nations and young people are capable of carrying out many great deeds.

The other issue is that of Islamic movements in some of the Arab and African countries. One of the most hope-inspiring events in the world of Islam is indeed when a nation, with its youth, intellectuals, traders, and ordinary citizens, is motivated by its mission to implement Islamic law and establish Islamic government and is moving to fulfill this objective. From the dawn of the great Islamic revolution in Iran and the establishment of the Islamic Republic, there was this expectation and hope for friends and this serious fear and concern for arrogance's camp led by the United States, that the Islamic Revolution of Iran would become the vanguard for the victories of Muslims in the rest of the world of Islam.

Assails U.S.

LD1806165391 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] Mecca, June 18, IRNA—The leader of the revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today warned that the United States was determined to dominate the rich and sensitive regions of the world, including the Middle East and the Persian Gulf in order to "continue its arrogant life more powerfully."

"If this threatening dream is translated into reality, then there will be a dark era for the peoples of this region the like of which has never been witnessed in history," he said in a message issued on the occasion of annual hajj pilgrimage.

Bitterly attacking Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for the Persian Gulf war, he also said the "ignorance, ambition and vanity" of the Iraqi leaders was the factor responsible for the U.S.'s turning into "the main decision-maker" in the region and for its "frightening some governments into submission."

"It is a great threat to our Islamic existence in this region and it would be a great threat to mankind wherever such domination is secured by the arch-Satan," he cautioned.

"This arrogant and suppressive superpower, after recent developments in the world resulting in the collapse of atheist, communist systems which put an end to Soviet rivalry with the United States, is now determined to turn the whole world especially the rich Islamic lands into a rival-free zone of American influence.

"The American Satan, being now free from the complications of the so-called cold war, is now determined to enter a full-scale war against Islamic awakening that is the only fortified obstacle on the path of its evil designs.

"This evil government, who is, because of its inhuman and satanic nature, caught in a web of internal problems with no solution, is arrogantly trying to transfer its difficulties and problems to other parts of the world..."

Enumerating the issues over one billion Muslims were facing today, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, elsewhere in his message termed the question of Palestine as "the most significant" issue of the Islamic world and "perhaps of the entire world."

Ayatollah Khamene'i said the hajj was a great annual congress of world Muslims and therefore their current affairs "obviously forms its most urgent agenda."

The message was addressed to over one million hajj pilgrims, including 117,000 Iranians who gathered here today to hold the 'Disawoval of Infidels' ceremony. It is a main political gathering held against "symbols of infidelity and injustice", that is the United States and Israel.

Iranian pilgrims are attending the annual congress four years after 400-plus pilgrims (mostly Iranians, including

women and children) were gunned down by Saudi security forces in the course of a similar demonstration in Mecca.

The ruthless killing in July 1987 led to severance of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Riyadh which were restored in March this year, thus paving the way for the Iranian pilgrims to attend the ceremony. Iran boycotted the annual congress for three consecutive years in protest against quotas on the numbers of the pilgrims. The two sides finally agreed on the number which is close to the 150,000 that Iran demanded.

The leader said the "usurper Zionist regime" was "the biggest danger threatening the present and the future state of the Muslim world" and urged the world Muslims to take the issue "more seriously" and "do something about it."

"Today when the bloody uprising of the Muslim masses in Palestine is changing into a real, serious threat to the unscrupulous occupationists whose acts of inhumanity and criminality recognizes no boundaries, the ways and methods of the enemy have become alarmingly more complicated," he warned.

"Today the inorderly, chaotic status of the Islamic world and the ever-increasing dependence of the region's states on the unbridled power of the United States of America have provided the usurper regime with favorable opportunities for bolder invasions and the realization of evil designs that Zionists never really tried to hide, and in this the occupation regime is, as ever, reassured of being supported by the arch-Satan, who is unquestionably the most dangerous foe and the arch-enemy of Islam and Muslims."

"Therefore, the usurping, Zionist regime is the biggest danger threatening the present and the future state of the Muslim world. And it is obviously obligatory on Muslims to find ways of overcoming this dangerous phenomenon and removing this great case of injustice. Unfortunately nothing in the statements or behavior of many heads of state in Islamic countries is indicative of their intention to overcome this great threat which can only be achieved by the abolition of the racist, Zionist state of Israel. On the other hand, there are signs of an enlargement of the Camp David sell-out and the completion of al-Sadat's treason by some Arab governments. And I honestly do not know what the authorities of these governments will have to say to their nations for such degrading humiliation and disgraceful submission to the malignant, violent enemy of Arabs and Muslims and how they will be answerable to God Almighty?

"However, it is the Muslims of the world who should confront this danger and defy it. They must extend their assistance to Muslim combatants and thereby strengthen and fortify the uprising inside Palestine, they should employ every possible means to prevent the governments of the region from compromising with the state of Israel at the behest of the United States. The sacrifices by the proud Muslims of Lebanon and their devoted, selfless acts of heroism—which have often pushed the Zionist bullies and their masters into weak, passive positions—is a true indicator of the fact that believing nations and their faithful youth have the ability to make great achievements."

On the situation in Iraq, the leader said the Baghdad regime after its "disgraceful and scandalous defeat" in the Persian Gulf war, was now buying time to continue its "heinous, atrocious and humiliated role" for an uncertain period of time.

"A regime whose army could not fight, without fearing death, foreign enemies who had entered their country, for more than a hundred hours, has been fighting its own people for more than a hundred days: killing civilians, destroying their houses, bombing cities and towns, attacking the holy shrines, making people homeless, arresting 'ulama' and other important personalities.

"The Kurds in the north and Arabs in the south have been mass- murdered, maimed, tortured and scattered around in such brutish, beast-like manners the likes of which have not been performed by known criminals in recent times. They have treated the people of Iraq in ways that scrupulous persons would not treat their animals. At the moment the Kurds in the north are in a fairly better position than the Shi'ites in the south as a result of some objections by the United States and some Western governments, but the future is unknown.

"However, the Shi'ite Muslims of the south who are disliked by the United States and its allies primarily because they favor Islam and formation of an Islamic government are left alone and are constantly being threatened and attacked by the genocidal, anti-religious regime of Iraq.

"This is a brief account of what is happening in Iraq: An oppressed, innocent and disaster-stricken nation is empty-handed, facing a ruthless regime with no respect for Islamic or international laws, and has no qualms in shedding blood or committing genocide. The people of Iraq are crying out "Oh Muslims, please help us". Reports during the last few days show that the army is making preparations for another bloodbath against thousands of people who have fearfully escaped to the marshy lands around al- Basra, al-Amarah, and al-Nasiriyah, these lots of women, children and old people suffering from different diseases and, according to a report, cases of cholera have also been witnessed.

"Western countries especially the United States of America have only published some short, lifeless reports about the ordeal of the Iraqi people and have not extended any kind of assistance to them. Their only hope and trust is in God Almighty and in the Muslim masses who could at least stage protests and demonstrations against the actions of the brutal Iraqi regime."

Turning to the issue of Kashmir, Ayatollah Khamene'i regretted that the Indian Government "has approached the problem improperly by resorting to force and brutal behavior."

"Being confident that the big powers and international organizations, these so-called champions of human rights will not take any serious measure in defence of Muslims, the Indian Government has resorted to inhuman means to suppress the Khasmir people. The Muslim nations must know that Muslims in Kashmir expect that they would do something to help and if the Indian Government believes that they can continue suppressing a big community of Muslims for ever without reaction from the Muslims of the world, they are absolutely wrong."

Another issue the leader dealt with in his message was that of "the march of Islamic movements" in certain Arab and African states. He said since the inception of the great Islamic revolution in Iran and the setting up of an Islamic Republic, "friends have been hoping and expecting—and the arrogant powers headed by the U.S. have been desperately anxious and worried—that the Islamic revolution in Iran will herald the coming victories of Muslims in other parts of the Islamic world...

"Today the arrogant powers and their noisy mass media are following the same objective by pretending that Islamic Iran is in deadlock, it has gone bankrupt and that the Iranian regime has already turned its back to revolutionary aims, has already forgotten the late imam and his teachings and is now trying to make amends with the perfidious American Administration.

"Thank God Almighty that none of these propagandists or practical efforts had any effect and the lamp that was lit by the victory of the Islamic revolution with its determined, uncompromising nature shed its lights everywhere and inspired the souls of Muslims into action and the result is the Islamic movements in a number of Islamic countries where Muslim masses are struggling to form Islamic administrations...

"The enemies are doing their best, by hook or by crook and foul publicity tricks, to frighten you from the epithists [as received] of Islamic rule and Islamic order...

"Today the danger of 'Americanized Islam', that is when the name of Islam and Islamic labels are employed to serve 'taghuts' [as received] and the objectives of the United States and other arrogant powers, is far more threatening than the military might and political weapons of the U.S.A. Beware of the followers of Americanized Islam whether they appear in the guise of ulema or in the shape of clever politicians..."

Pakistan

Cabinet Decides on Measures To Curb Terrorism

BK1906160791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] At its meeting in Islamabad today, the Federal Cabinet held an in-depth review of the law and order situation in the country and decided to take effective steps to severely deal with those involved in unlawful and terrorist activities. The prime minister chaired the meeting. The Federal Cabinet decided on measures to see that all illegal and unlicensed arms are deposited within one month. Briefing newsmen on the cabinet's decisions, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, the adviser on information and broadcasting; said that the Federal Cabinet has approved drafts of the Terrorism-Affected Areas Special Ordinance 1991 and the Disturbed Zones Ordinance 1991. Under the first ordinance, the government will be empowered to declare any area as a terrorism-affected area. Special courts will be set up, which will be headed by either a sessions judge, additional sessions judge, or a high court judge. The trial may take place behind closed doors if deemed necessary. Only special courts will be empowered to grant bail in respect to cases registered under this ordinance. The jurisdiction of these courts will be limited to the zones which will be declared as terrorism-affected areas.

Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said under the disturbed area ordinance, the federal government will be empowered to declare any area as a disturbed zone on the recommendation of the provincial government. It will also be empowered to seize illegal arms, ammunition, explosive materials, and other such materials.

Answering a question about punishment for possession of illegal automatic weapons, the information adviser said sentences for possession of illegal weapons have increased, and now the punishments for such cases will range from life imprisonment to confiscation of movable and immovable property. The Federal Cabinet offered prayers for the salvation of the soul of the special court judge, Nabi Sher Junejo, who was assassinated in Karachi yesterday.

Mujahidin Kills 24 Militiamen To Capture Posts

BK2006073091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that Mujahidin have carried out operations against Kabul regime troops in Konduz, Ghowr, Ghazni, Qandhar and Herat. The Mujahidin attacked military posts at the Konduz Airport and surrounding areas, capturing three military posts and setting fire to military airport installations during the action. They also destroyed a military post in Sharageh District. During an attack on a military post in Ghazni Province, they killed 24 militiamen. They also launched rocket attacks on military headquarters of Qal'eh-ye Jadid, southeast of Qandahar City.

Five Killed, 41 Injured in Train Blast

BK2006085891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] There was a blast in a passenger train in Wazirabad railway junction this morning. As a result, five passengers were killed and 41 injured. The train was bound for Faisalabad from Wazirabad. The blast occurred in a bogie of the train shortly before its departure at 0930 this morning. The injured were rushed to the Civil Hospital in Wazirabad, where they were provided medical care and first aid. Those in critical condition were moved to Lahore, Gujranwala and Gujrat hospitals.

Sri Lanka

Commission Set Up To Inquire on Massacre

BK1806114891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] The president has decided to appoint a presidential commission of inquiry under the Commissioner of Inquiry Act, to inquire into and report on the Kokkadichcholai incident. The commission comprises the former supreme Court judge, justice O.S.M. Seneviratne, chairman; retired supreme court judge, Justice Shiva Chelliah; and the former Ceylon Civil Service member, Dr. A.M.M. Shahabdin. This decision has been taken based on the findings of three-member investigation team which carried out on-the-spot investigations in Kokkadichcholai. The terms and references of the commission will be announced today.

LTTE Ambush Kills 16 Soldiers

BK2006080891 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0633 GMT 20 Jun 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jun 20 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sixteen soldiers were killed this morning when a security forces route clearing party was ambushed by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at Weli Oya in the eastern Trincomalee District, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.